



SOCCER ACTION

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NO. VBP0351

JUGOSLOVENSKA
SCENA:15

VIVA ITALIA:14

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ
ΣΕΛΙΣ:15

Vol. 11, No. 3

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY, 1986

603 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Phone: (03) 605 4257/58 (editorial)
(03) 605 4259 (advertising)

\$1.40 recommended price only

Andrew Dettre

How superstars turn into puny weaklings

It always depends on the way you look at it. Players have a capacity for singing their own praises to clubs when they negotiate contracts. The same players will run themselves down ruthlessly when they appeal against excessive transfer fees.

Something like this.

A Player seeking a better contract (talking to a reporter):

I would really love to stay with United, I really would but I can't accept their new terms. I mean, it's an insult really to be offered an 80% rise after what I've done for them, you know.

And you know, after all, I almost made the Socceroo squad, too, so they're not talking to a beginner but to an almost national team player.

Alright, I am 30 years old, but what does that prove? That's not old. Di Stefano and Puskas were older when they joined Real Madrid.

I think the club should also remember the service I've given them over the past two years. Alright, it's true I was out for about 10 months with a few injury problems but what about the bloody spiritual support I gave the team when they needed it? And all those visits to the dressing room before our matches that helped the boys?

I am not greedy like others, you know. All I want is what's my right and all this from a rich club which is rolling in millions, literally rolling in them.

Good luck, I'd say, good luck to them but what about the little bloke, the player who has built the bloody club. What about looking after him for a change.

We — me wife Marge and myself — don't ask for too much, just what we need for our everyday life. We want to build a Jack Uzi or whatdoyoucallit for a splash and Marge needs a little BMW for running around the place with the kids and her mum.

Now, that's not too much to ask, is it? If United won't be reasonable I might want to leave them, you know. I wouldn't like to feel bitter about my club, I couldn't do my best then.

I reckon I am worth every penny I am asking for so why be bloody coy about it? If you don't look after yourself nobody else will, haven't you noticed?

The same Player appealing against an 'excessive' transfer fee (talking to the same, always willing reporter):

It's really sad that it has come to this, after all the happy days I have spent with the club. The fee they placed on my head will probably frighten away all interested clubs and bring my career to an end.

Why are they doing this to me? Who am I, after all? Just a speck of dust in the infinite universe, a very ordinary player who actually made the rep team through bribery. Yes, I can now admit I wasn't worthy of selection.

And I am now more than 30 years old — a month more but actually, in my genes, I feel like 50. My barber says it's got something to do with chromosomes or chromed gnomes, I am not sure. Anyway, fancy putting that astronomical sum on my head. No wonder I can only walk doubled up.

Players after 20 hit the downhill trail. Yes, I've read this in a Bulgarian monthly for railway shunters. How long have I got? Maybe another few months. Why not let me finish my career a happy man, then retire and peacefully wait for The End?

Fancy asking for that much in transfer fees when the club knows full well that I use my left foot only to lean on, that I can really play for only 30 minutes because I smoke 80 cigarettes a day, that basically I am a rotten destructive person who doesn't fit into the angelic atmosphere of United's salty dressing room.

Sure, I want to go to City — but it's not money that I am after. It's the country air Marge and I need so that we can bicycle to work, to the shops and to the clubhouse or down to the creek for a bracing winter morning swim while the directors of United rot in their warm frothy jacuzzis.

Actually, I hope the Association will grant me a free transfer but if that's not possible — after all, they don't want to upset the clubs, do they? — they will reduce my staggering transfer fee of \$500 to something more reasonable like \$4.99. Yes, that's what I am worth, no more and if there were more players like me honest enough to admit it, perhaps the country's inflation would stop, the interest rates would fall, the dollar would recover, Gaddafi would become sane, Marcos would go on the dole and all the other problems of the world would vanish too.

So I appeal.

14-team league to get the OK

FULL STORY PAGE 13



Coach Dragoslav Sekularac (second from right) with his three J.U.S.T. recruits, from left: Zoran Nikitovic, Vojislav Vukcevic and Vlado Stolic. Picture: RODGER CUMMINS.

An airlift to rival Buljevic, Zoraja?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Glowing with a sense of adventure, and equipped with a language guide titled "Engleski," Footscray J.U.S.T.'s three long-awaited recruits finally jetted into Melbourne last week, with their coach Dragoslav Sekularac.

And fans are hoping that this airlift of talent will prove as effective as Branko Buljevic, Slobodan Zoraja and Milan Mihalic in the late sixties.

Sekularac has hand-picked his three recruits, Zoran Nikitovic, Vlado Stolic and Vojislav Vukcevic.

All have impressive credentials, but none as spectacular as those of Sekularac.

Asked whether the former Red Star wizard was still the idol in Yugoslavia that he was in the sixties, Nikitovic said: "He's sure more popular than me."

Nikitovic, 28, toured Australia with Partizan Belgrade in 1979, as understudy to No.1 goalkeeper Zalad. Nikitovic replaced Zalad as No.1 on the team's return to Yugoslavia.

Later, Nikitovic had four years with Buducnost and one year with his most recent club, Napredak. He originated from Suteska Nikic.

Nikitovic played 24 times for the Yugoslav youth team and eight times for the junior selection. He played in the team that won the 1976 European junior championship, along with Zajec, Petrovic, Siskovic and Halilhodzic.

Continued page two



DISCOUNTS TO ALL CLUBS AND SOCCER PLAYERS!!

ALL BUFFALO SOCCER EQUIPMENT

AVAILABLE FROM . . .

ASCOT VALE
Barry Grant Sports, 67 Charles St, Ascot Vale
Tel 370 3747

RESERVOIR
Reservoir Sports, 54 Edwards St, Reservoir
Tel 460 9972

SPRINGVALE
Sportsman Centre, 246 Springvale Rd, Springvale
Tel 546 9502



Train

SPORTS BALLS

SUPPLIER OF TOP QUALITY FIFA APPROVED
SOCCER BALLS (Leather, Hand Stitched)
Notice to all Clubs — BUY DIRECT AND SAVE!

PHONE (03) 580 2217 FOR PROMPT & COURTEOUS SERVICE
2A FONCECA ST, MORDIALLOC.

"We Also Deliver"
in Metropolitan Area.

EXCLUSIVELY RECOMMENDED BY...

RALE RASIC
Australian World Cup Finalist Coach — 1974

"SOCCER & TRAIN SOCCER BALLS... THE PERFECT MATCH"

Dragoslav Sekularac an all-time great

Vukcevic, 29, will play sweeper for J.U.S.T. He had nine seasons with Buducnost, the latter few as captain. He played for the New York Cosmos in 1984 and Malmoe in Sweden in 1985.

His year with Cosmos was spent in the company of the great Chilean international Carlos Caszely, and Iran's 'Eski' Eskandarian, both of whom have played against Australia in World Cup matches. Other top players at Cosmos were Jose Batista of Brazil and Vincenzo D'Amico of Italy.

He scored a fair number of goals for a defender, including a last-minute equaliser against Independiente of Argentina, the week after Independiente had beaten Liverpool in the World Cup in Tokyo.

Vukcevic still would be with Cosmos, had the North Ameri-

can Soccer League not folded last year.

Vlado Stolic, 21, is a striker from Red Star Belgrade and has played 10 games for the Yugoslav national under 18 team.

"I had to get special permission to bring Stolic with me because usually players are not allowed out of the country until they are much older — especially if they have represented Yugoslavia," Sekularac said.

"Stolic is a top talent. I coached him at Red Star when he was 16, and he was second best scorer in the club's junior team. He has also had a few senior games."

Stolic will join J.U.S.T.'s \$15,000 buy from George Cross, Ossie Latif, and hard-

From page one

running Bill Lazopoulos, in a potentially explosive attack.

But J.U.S.T.'s big drawcard will be Sekularac, 49, who is sure to capture the imagination of Yugoslav fans.

He was one of the world's most entertaining players. He played in the 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games in Melbourne and Rome, and the 1958 and 1962 World Cups in Sweden and Chile.

He scored eight goals for Yugoslavia and 156 for Red Star Belgrade.

In the 1958 World Cup, Yugoslavia beat France 3-2, but lost 0-1 to Germany in the quarter-finals. France beat Germany 6-3 in the play-off for third place.

Yugoslavia's line-up against France was: Beara, Tomic, Ze-

bec, Crnkovic, Krstic, Boskov, Petakovic, Veselinovic, Milutinovic, Sekularac, Rajkov.

Those players are among the all-time greats of Yugoslav soccer.

In 1962 in Chile, Yugoslavia finished fourth, losing the third-place play-off 0-1 to Chile.

Yugoslavia's line-up that day in Santiago was: Sosik, Durkovic, Markovic, Svinjarevic, Radakovic, Popovic, Kovacevic, Sekularac, Jerkovic, Galic, Skoblar.

And let's have a look at the team that lost 0-1 in front of 100,000 people to the USSR in the 1956 Olympic final at the MCG: Radenkovik, Koscak, Radovic, Santek, Spilic, Krstic, Sekularac, Papec, Antic, Veselinovic, Mujic.

Then there was the 1960 Olympic tournament, where Sekularac was injured and missed out on playing in the 3-1 victory over Denmark in the final.

Another disappointment was Yugoslavia's 1-2 loss to the USSR in the 1960 European Nations Cup final in Paris.

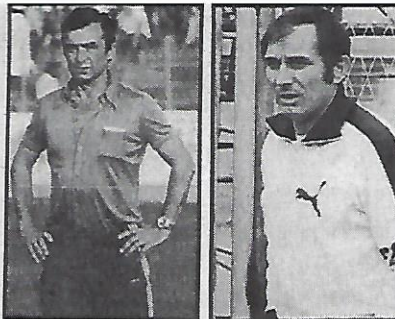
Yugoslavia's line-up that day — July 10 — was: Vidinic, Durkovic, Jusuf, Zanetic, Miladinovic, Perusic, Matos, Jerkovic, Galic, Sekularac, Kostic.

After leaving Red Star, Sekularac played for Santa Fe in Columbia and for Paris FC in France before quitting to coach juniors at Red Star.

More recently, he had charge of Guatemala's national team, until the World Cup play-offs against Canada last season. Guatemala drew 1-1 at home, but lost 1-2 in Canada, and so Canada went through to the finals in Mexico this year.

Previously however, Guatemala had been unbeaten in 36 home matches under Sekularac.

Talking about his J.U.S.T. recruits, Sekularac said: "I had to



● Todor Veselinovic (left) and Branko Zebec — two of Sekularac's team mates in Yugoslavia's national side.

go for players who were available, but I also had to make sure they were quality players. It was also important that we build a good team unit, rather than have a collection of individuals. Inter Milan has great players like Rummenigge but it is not high on the ladder.

"I saw videos of J.U.S.T.'s games when I was here last year, and I found out which players we need. We need a few more, and that's where the club committee will come in. We will decide within the next few weeks that we have to buy."

Sekularac is intent on once again making J.U.S.T. one of the most entertaining teams in Australia.

"We cannot compare eras in football," he began. "We had many outstanding individuals in my time and today no-one can compare, except maybe Maradona or Platini, because the game has changed. I am concerned about how negative, defensive attitudes have ruined soccer as entertainment."

"We must try, at J.U.S.T., to play entertaining soccer to draw the crowds. That is just as important as winning, otherwise, in the long run, no-one will want to watch the sport anymore."

Sekularac conceded it was difficult to take over a team that finished last in 1985, and that something obviously has been wrong. "But I believe in the players I have brought with me, and I am sure we can build a good team," he said.

Nikilovic, Vukcevic and Stolic haven't trained for six weeks because they were caught between seasons, waiting for their visas. Sekularac said it would take some weeks for them to get fit and acclimatise, and we wouldn't see the best of them until the NSL season starts.

NSW stops Soviet visit

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

"The Russians aren't coming... the Russians aren't coming..."

Not to Australia anyway, but the word is that they're going to play Mexico in a full international in Mexico City on Saturday, February 22, which happens to be the day before the proposed NSW v USSR clash.

The NSW federation called off the proposed two-game Soviet tour after finding out that the touring party didn't contain any players who played in World Cup qualifying games.

What we hear is that three or four Soviet squads are touring different parts of the globe as part of the USSR's selection process for a final squad to represent it in the World Cup finals later this year. It appears that the squad headed for our shores was the Mark-4 model which seems appropriate. After all, it only was coming here to play NSW and Northern NSW, not the dreaded Socceroos.

It was all too much for the NSW federation which gave the USSR the thumbs-down sign last Friday, in the process saving soccer fans from paying to watch a team of fourth-raters, full internationally speaking, that is.

The NSW squad chosen for the match was: GOALKEEPERS: Mike Gibson (St George), Tony Pezzano (APIA).

DEFENDERS: Gerry Gomez, Alex Robertson (Hakoah), Arno Bertogna (APIA), Robbie Wheatley (Marconi), Tony Dakos (Olympic).

MIDFIELDERS: Ian Gray, Peter Trednick (Marconi), Zarko Odzakovic (Sydney Croatia), Peter Raskopoulos (Olympic).

STRIKERS: Frank Farina, Grant Lee (Hakoah), David Lowe (Marconi), Marshall Soper (Olympic).

Croatias battle

Paul Blute's ambition of becoming a professional player with Sydney Croatia received a jolt last week when his club Adelaide Croatia demanded a \$7000 transfer fee.

The long-striding young striker believed that the SA club would be prepared to release him on loan while he tries to make his mark in the NSL.

Blute, 22, chose Sydney Croatia last year after rejecting an offer from Brisbane Lions.

He flew back to Adelaide last week in an attempt to resolve the issue.

— ALLAN CRISP

Brewery may back Hellas

Ambitious West Adelaide Hellas is negotiating a \$100,000 sponsorship with Carlton and United Breweries.

Officials revealed that negotiations for the backing are well advanced and are expecting the sponsorship to supplement that already supplied by Commodore Pest Control, Yorke Motors and International Furniture and Electrical.

Until the ink is dry on the proposed deal with the brewery giant, Hellas will continue to send out its players without a logo on their shirts.

— ALLAN CRISP

SPORTS POWER

Your competitive edge.

Mitre Training Ball
32 PANEL at
\$20 was \$30

Buffalo Match Ball
WEMBLEY at
\$25 was \$35

COMPLETE CLUB STRIPS
from **\$11.00**

New Range of Soccer Boots

* ADIDAS * PUMA * DIADORA

KEVIN ROCK SPORTSPOWER
CNR WARRIGAL RD AND BURWOOD HWY,
BURWOOD (03) 288 8916

COBURG SPORTSWEAR
393 SYDNEY RD, COBURG
(03) 354 5068

NATIONAL SOCCER ANNUAL 1986

ONLY
\$1.75
A SOCCER ACTION
PUBLICATION

SENSATIONAL SOCCEROOS:
Their exploits under Arok,
and all statistics since 1964

JUVENTUS TRIUMPHS:
NSL title to Victoria, thanks
to Margaritis

**CROYDON, CANTERBURY,
WEST PERTH
MACEDONIA:**
Champs, standings,
scorers in all
States

OUT NOW AT YOUR
NEWSAGENCY

A first for Croydon, for
Box Hill too,
Melbourne returns

OLYMPIC'S CUP!

Juve best in Australia
thanks to Margaritis

Socceroo appearances

Latrobe Valley booms

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

Canterbury's title, Fleming top coach

Western Australia
Campbell by three

Macedon again, Dalmatina second

By Laurie Schwab

There's a new star on the coaching horizon. His name is Miron Bleiberg. He is the brains of Melbourne Croatia. He is far from shy.

Like any good professional he has confidence in his own ability, but he ended our talk with the line: "I am not a genius. I am not a superstar. I just do not make the same mistake twice."

Bleiberg, 31 this month, is the youngest coach in the National League, but his credentials are more impressive than most.

He speaks with the authority of a man who served as a captain in the Israeli navy, who holds a BA in Economics, Maths and Business Administration. He has the self-assurance of a man who is financially comfortable. His players do what he says, because they know that he knows what he's doing.

He outsmarted the old fox, John Margaritis, in the 1985 Dockerty Cup semi-finals before going on to win the trophy 2-0 against Makedonia in the final.

Margaritis fell victim to Bleiberg once more in the Buffalo Gold Cup a few weeks ago, when Croatia beat Hellas 2-1. Future clashes between them will be like the clash of the Titans.

For make no mistake, while Margaritis believes that he can go for a second successive NSL championship, Bleiberg is moulding a team which will be among the best in the country.

Davor Todoric, a left winger from Yugoslavia, is on the way. Joze Antolovic, that cultured sweeper, and striker Ante Ljubic, are both due to return. Luka Bonacic, a top-liner with experience in Yugoslavia, West Germany and Spain, has joined the squad in midfield. It all is part of a plan to build a solid squad comprising at least three players for every two positions.

"You cannot build a successful team without depth," he says.

"I see George Cross, for example, and with Noel Mitten out injured, the coach, John Gardiner, plays himself. That to me is not a good team. If Gardiner plays in such a game, he is saying to the players on the bench: You have no chance. How can he expect them to give their sweat and enthusiasm at the next training session?"

And so we look at Croatia's depth, after all the players arrive. In midfield, for example, we have: Josip Biskic, Victor Cristaldo, Jimmy Campbell, Luka Bonacic, Steve Goejovic, Suleiman Curovic. Up front, we have: Gary Ward, Robert Markovic, Ante Ljubic, Davor Todoric.

While talking about Margaritis, Bleiberg ventures the opinion that Margaritis should have reacted the way he did after two successive Hellas losses, and that he should have left the team unchanged, rather than make his McDowall-Brown-Minos-Russell switches.

"Maybe he should have left it alone, given it time," he says.

"He has my greatest respect as a coach, but maybe he should have just stopped relying so much on 4-4-2 and maybe play a third striker. Brown is the striker I am afraid of most. He has a good shot with both feet. We can let you dream for 70 minutes and then beat you with a 25-metre goal."

Bleiberg has had, and perhaps still has some problems in his playing staff but he does not have the handicap of procrastination in dealing or talking about them.

Take Bonacic, for example.

Sure, some Croatian fans are on his back — perhaps because he played for Footscray JUST last year. Yes, Bonacic expected to be the coach when he arrived from Yugoslavia.

Sure, he has a language problem as Bleiberg's assistant.

Bleiberg himself comes from a Polish background, and he can understand some of what Bonacic says, because of the similarity of the Slavic languages.

"And Bonacic has to be careful not to be a player at training, so he can't, for example, take the goalkeepers," he says. "Also, at JUST he was the only playmaker, so he had most of the ball. Here we have Biskic, Goejovic, Campbell, so he has maybe 25 per cent of the ball."

He hopes he stays at the club and gives good performances. I want him to succeed. There is no question of his ability, just applications."

Todoric is a skilful left winger with the potential to entertain the fans, so Bleiberg welcomes him. If Todoric succeeds on the left, Bleiberg gets the chance to switch Goejovic to central midfield.

"Goejovic is one of the most skilful players in Australia but he has a problem in being a quiet guy and he has too many bad minutes in each game. I want to change the picture and make him involved for 89 minutes, by playing him in the middle."

Bleiberg says that Goejovic, who is in Yugoslavia and won't return until his wife gives birth to their baby in March.

"Croatia misses him so much. He is very clever, I like him and he likes me. We have a good rapport. Croatia has a very skilful defender, but rather than have a defender like Shaun Parton who kicks the ball 30 metres, we must have someone like Antolovic, who used to be a midfielder and therefore is excellent at distributing the ball."

Jim Campbell was told by Bleiberg to forget about soccer early in 1985, even though Croatia had paid \$22,000 for him.

"He had produced nothing," he says.

"He is the type of guy that if you don't push him, he will do nothing. And without fitness, without oxygen, you can't do anything anyway. When I was in charge early in 1985, before Kapetanovic arrived, I said to him: You can't continue like this. I sent him away. Kapetanovic arrived and he wanted him back. I said OK, but you must watch him. Later, when I again took charge of the team, I said to Jim: I know you have a good job with Adidas, and you like to spend time with your family, but you must make up your mind. If you want to play, you must give effort. He improved a lot and in the first two Buffalo Cup games, he was among our best players."

It is well known that former coach Don Kapetanovic and striker Gary Ward did not exactly hit it off towards the end of the 1985 season. One feared when Ward was on the bench and then replaced in the first two Buffalo Cup games that a hangerover remained from that friction. Not so. Ward had had a nose operation. He was being reintroduced slowly.

"I appreciate Ward," says Bleiberg. "He is a winner by character. He hates to lose even in training games and he has a smell for scoring. He is a clever guy and he does what I tell him and never gives up, even if we are losing with a minute to go. His main love as a striker is to shoot. Kapetanovic devoted maybe 10 per cent of training to shooting. Maybe Ward had 10 shots



●Miron Bleiberg

a week and Kapetanovic expected him to score at the weekend."

Croatia became disappointed in Kapetanovic — now coach of Canterbury-Marrickville — near the end of the 1985 season. Officials called in Bleiberg about the 1986 season. Bleiberg, Croatia's youth coach, said his visa had expired. Croatia said OK, we'll bring you back.

He knows now that Croatia tested him out by putting him in charge for the Dockerty Cup.

The first hurdle, was National Champion Juventus in the semi-final.

"I had a big advantage in that I had known all the players for a year. I knew all the problems. I knew there was great potential but that there had always been too much misunderstanding for nothing. I had a strong belief I could make a great team here."

"I was so sure of myself that I didn't even consider not taking the Dockerty Cup."

"Now I knew it was my big test, and so maybe now I sweat when I think of it. But at that time, I could have been playing Manchester United and I would not have been worried. It was very interesting, psychologically."

He speaks of his tactics in that victory over Juventus — a victory that virtually clinched him the job as 1986 senior coach.

"I had watched Juventus six, seven times, and I had a clear picture in front of my eyes. I had an easy job for someone who knows soccer."

"Juventus was very confident after winning the championship, and the more confident a team is, the more it attacks. Juventus started their attacks with their full backs, Campbell and Lewis. I could have said to my strikers, Ward and Biskic: Follow the full backs to stop them attacking. Instead, I said: When the full backs attack, stay in the gaps. We will win the ball in defence, and you will get the ball in the open. We scored only one goal, but we missed six or seven, while Juventus had maybe 70 per cent of the play. It worked."

Does Bleiberg now see his future in Australia, or back home in Israel?

"We won the Dockerty Cup while the Israeli team and the Israeli journalists were here for the World Cup. My success made a big impression on them. I was an Israeli boy who had achieved success overseas. So when I went home for the holidays I got three or four offers from National League clubs in Israel, but of course I couldn't take them because I had signed a contract with Croatia. I still have my house there, and my parents, while I like Australia and I have lots of friends here, I can go home for the Jewish New Year in October-November every year, spend three or four months there, and come back. But maybe one day I will coach in Israel again. The money is much better there. With a national league club you get 40,000 or 50,000 American dollars a year."

Who is this man? What is his background?

They are questions everyone's been asking since Bleiberg burst onto the Australian soccer scene like Halley's Comet.

So OK, OK, we'll tell you, already!

He was a first-team place as a left winger with Maccabi Haifa at the age of 17 and represented Israel at under 18 level in a 12-team international tournament in Holland, where Israel lost in the semi-finals.

After half a season he injured an ankle and the time came when all Israeli youths of that age are called into the armed forces.

Soccer or basketball players, as exponents of Israel's two favorite sports, usually are posted close to home and given clerical jobs that tie in with their sports commitments. But Bleiberg, because of his superior education, decided to become a naval officer.

In fact, he rose to the rank of captain in his five years of service.

His playing career was interrupted, but by no means terminated. The armed services soccer tournament is

Bleiberg:

Coaching comet steers Croatia to the stars

staged every two years, and Bleiberg found himself back in soccer as opposed to military action. He scored seven goals in four games to end the tournament as top scorer, even though he played as left back!

At 22, after three years in the Navy and well established as an officer, he found the time to play with Belitar Haifa in the First League, which is below the national and State Leagues. He became captain that year and, after Belitar had sacked its coach, he was appointed player-coach.

In the summer of that year, he did a coaching course in basic principles — the first year of a three-year course — and topped his class. His outstanding results enabled him to skip the second year of the course, and go straight into the third year. More about that later.

Meanwhile, he was approached to become player-coach of Yokneam in the Second League. Under Bleiberg, Yokneam won promotion.

He then did his final year of the coaching course and again topped the class.

Belitar Haifa was relegated to the Second League and turned to Bleiberg to step to the ro.

"That's when I decided to quit playing," he says. "I knew I'd never be a Beckenbauer, but I thought I'd be a good coach one day."

And so, in two years, Bleiberg took Belitar from the Second League to the State League, where it still is today.

Having qualified officially as a coach, he was made a staff coach on the Israeli coaching association and sent to the Cologne Sports School in West Germany for three months.

He also had a month with Tottenham Hotspur and a month with Werder Bremen, as part of his search for knowledge. Moreover, he attended coaching seminars in various parts of Europe, run by Bobby Robson, Billy Bingham, and Jupp Derwall.

He had a year as youth coach with Maccabi Haifa in the national league, and before coming to Australia in late 1984, he boasted four championships in six years of coaching.

Soccer in Israel is like VFL in Melbourne. A league match attracts 20,000 even though the entire population of Israel is only three million.

And so there was intense interest in Israel's World Cup campaign against Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan.

"Australia has always had the reputation in Israel, as elsewhere, of having rugby players playing soccer."

And so there was intense interest in Israel's World Cup campaign against Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan.

"I played against or alongside six or seven of the Israeli players in the World Cup team and I believe that with a coach other than Josef Mirmovitch, they would have beaten Australia easily."

"They were so high in Israel. They had played six or seven matches against Scotland over the years, and had won often at home, so at least they expected to get to the play-off stage."

"When they failed, a special group of government ministers was created in Israel to check on the reasons for the failure. The conclusion was that the coach no longer would work alone. He would have an assistant and there would be a group of experts to help."

"There was a problem with discipline among the players. On a training camp in Germany, there was arguing and fights. The same thing had happened with the youth team, resulting in Israel sending an under 18 rather than an under 19 team to the World Youth Championship qualifying tournament, because so many players had been suspended."

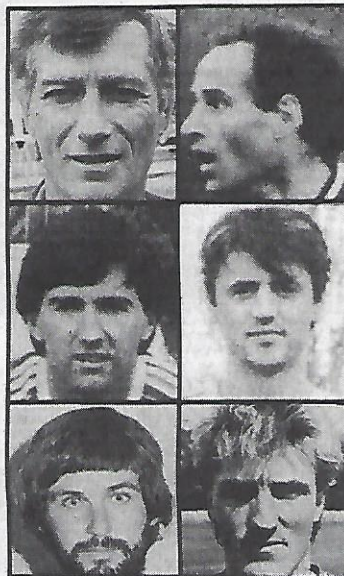
Mordechai Spiegler, the former Israeli national captain, who travelled as a media commentator during the World Cup campaign, said much that displeased Mirmovitch, particularly Spiegler's suggestions about where various players should be playing.

"Spiegler has a lot of influence, he is clever and sharp with his mouth," Bleiberg says.

"He has a lot of influence with players because he has good connections overseas. If a player wants to play abroad, he goes through Spiegler."

"Spiegler was a bit bitter while he was here because he did not have a coaching job. He coached in the National League for five years and three of his teams were relegated."

"He made comments about where Pizanti should play, for example. Mirmovitch was a bit weak, and Spiegler was strong, and allowed to say what he thought as a journalist. It was not really surprising,



●From top left: John Margaritis, Luka Bonacic, Jim Campbell, Joze Antolovic, John Gardiner, Gary Ward.

knowing that coaches in Israel eat each other for breakfast, as they do in many other countries.

"It is not unusual in Israel to say after a game, for example, Margaritis made this mistake, and that mistake, and another, and that's why we won."

Here's how it came about that Bleiberg came to Australia:

He was a partner in a clothing company and when he sensed that inflation in Israel would get much, much worse, he decided to sell his share in the business.

At the same time he married his fiancée, Shlomit, and they decided to spend a year travelling around the world. Australia, where they have relatives would be the first stop, and the Far East and the U.S. would come later.

After a while in Sydney, he travelled to Melbourne and inevitably, the urge to see a soccer game gripped him.

He bought a copy of "Soccer Action" picked a match at Olympic Park and asked someone outside where to buy a ticket. That person turned out to be soccer writer Fred Villiers who after talking to Bleiberg about his soccer expertise, introduced him to Melbourne Croatia manager Frank Burin.

Burin, after consultation with his committee, gave Bleiberg the job as Croatia's youth coach. "It was an adventure for me," says Bleiberg.

"Early in the year, before the Buffalo Cup, I saw the senior squad training in a car park outside Olympic Park. Kapetanovic, the new coach, had not arrived, and the captain, Tommy Cumming, was still on holidays. Shaun Parton was doing the training."

"I wondered whether this could be true."

"I said to Frank Burin: 'Shit, what is going on here?'"

"He asked me if I could do better and I said sure, I have more knowledge than the 23-year-old Parton, although his fitness training wasn't bad at all. Burin said OK, come on Monday week and take training. Well, about 200 supporters turned out just to see how I would handle the session. I was 28, and maybe I succeeded."

ALLISONS SPORTS

HAS MOVED!!!!...

CALL IN AND SEE OUR NEW SHOWROOM AT ...

355 CENTRE RD, BENTLEIGH

or call our new phone number ...

(03) 557 1917

NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS ...

If you haven't received your free brochure of our complete range of soccer requirements including:- strips, nets, flags, goal-posts, balls etc. CALL US FOR YOUR COPY NOW!!

Interstate and Country Enquiries.

WANTED

Soccer Players

Provisional League progressive club

652 8393 (BH)
527 8829 (AH)

●Steve Goejovic immensely skilled but a quiet guy who doesn't get involved enough.



Seb Giampaolo slams 'Mickey Mouse' Roos

Better than Italy, England

Australia's enormous soccer potential is underlined in the all-time standings compiled from results in the World Youth Championships.

Australia is listed in 13th place, ahead of soccer giants Hungary, England, Scotland, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Portugal, France, Yugoslavia and even Italy. Coaches have been saying it for years: Up to youth level, Australia is among the world's best. It is at senior, professional level, that we find the going tough. The answer, it is often said, lies in having a strong, professional national league to which young players can aspire.

"Eternal" Table										
	Tunisia 77	Japan 79	Algeria 81	Mexico 82	USSR 85	Matches	W	D	L	Goals
1 Brazil	3		6	1	1	21	16	4	1	47 12
2 Uruguay	4	3	5	5		19	11	5	3	28 15
3 Argentina		1	9	2		15	12	1	2	37 7
4 USSR	1	2		15	4	20	8	7	5	32 20
5 Spain	7	6	13		2	16	6	6	4	16 21
6 Mexico	2	11	11	13	5	18	4	9	5	27 21
7 Poland		4	10	3		15	6	3	6	27 15
8 Nigeria				10	3	9	5	2	2	8 10
9 Korea Rep.		9	11	4		12	3	5	4	12 17
10 Paraguay	5	5			12	10	4	2	4	17 11
11 Germany FR			1			6	4	1	1	6 3
12 Romania			3			6	4	1	1	6 3
13 Australia			7	9	11	10	2	5	3	12 13
14 Hungary	10	14			9	9	3	2	4	11 15
15 England			4		13	9	2	3	4	11 12
16 Qatar			2			6	3	1	2	7 9
17 China P.R.				12	7	7	3	0	4	10 13
18 Honduras	6					3	2	0	1	3 1
19 Bulgaria					6	4	1	2	1	5 4
20 Scotland				6		4	2	0	2	4 3
21 Czechoslovakia				7		4	2	0	2	8 8
22 Netherlands				7		4	1	2	1	5 5
23 Egypt			8			4	1	2	1	9 10
24 Portugal		7				4	1	2	1	2 3
25 Algeria		8				4	1	2	1	2 6
26 Colombia					8	4	1	2	1	5 10
27 France	7					3	1	1	1	3 3
28 Saudi Arabia					10	3	1	1	1	1 1
29 Iran	9					3	1	1	1	4 5
30 Ivory Coast	13			14		6	0	3	3	4 13
USA			15	11		6	1	1	4	4 13
32 Canada		13			14	6	1	1	4	3 12
33 Yugoslavia		10				3	1	0	2	5 3
34 Japan		12				3	0	2	1	1 2
35 Iraq	11					3	1	0	2	6 8
36 Italy	12			16		6	0	2	1	2 9
37 Tunisia	14				16	6	1	0	5	3 13
38 Cameroon			14			3	0	1	2	3 6
39 Austria	15			16		6	0	1	5	1 16
40 Ireland Rep.					15	3	0	0	3	3 7
41 Morocco	16					3	0	0	3	0 6
42 Guinea		15				3	0	0	3	0 10
43 Indonesia		16				3	0	0	3	0 16

"Now I don't really care much about the national team. It's not a goal I have set myself any more."

"It's a really 'Mickey Mouse' thing — it doesn't really matter. What does matter is the club scene, yet people aren't concentrating on it. All the attention goes to the Socceroos. I don't want to think about the Socceroos. My ambition is to score more goals than last year, and for Monaro to be more settled and to improve its position in the Australian club scene."

"That's more important to me now," He said Monaro had started the current season with a plan of attack.

Coach Frank MacCarone has a squad of 18 which probably will be culled to 15 or 16. Monaro has started off well in NSW Ampol Cup matches with a 4-0 win against Avala and a 4-1 win against Rockdale.

"Before we got Frank last year, everything was in chaos."

"Then he put the house into some order. He refused to take over until he felt he had the power he needed to do things his way," Giampaolo said.

"When he had the support of the committee, of the fans and of the players, then he could tackle the problems. That was very important to him — it was very important to us all."

Giampaolo is sceptical about the revision of the NSL to a single division going ahead smoothly. He finds it hard to believe that 14 clubs will accept the cut without a fight.

"They may say it all now, the grandiose 'It's all for the good-of-the-game' type statements," Giampaolo said. "But they're all being optimistic that they won't be in for the drop. Just wait until it is them . . . then the screaming will start."

He also feels that the relegation issue won't be solely judged by league position at the end of the year.

"There's been just too much money pumped into some clubs for fate to be allowed to decide the future," he said. As for Monaro's prospects, he feels the club has its future firmly within its own hands.

"This year we can do better than before. We've got some new blood — such as Steve Winn — and there's a depth we haven't had for many years," Giampaolo said.

"We will be a threat this year," And his own future? Well, he hasn't considered the time when he has to hang up his boots.

"I'm 27 and have a fair few more years left in me yet, I think. Maybe I'll turn to coaching, maybe to some form of administration. I'll worry about that when the time comes."



● Seb Giampaolo

Now he's concentrating on the coming season, where he hopes Monaro can do even better.

"When you look at the 1985 season, we only just missed out on a final position because we lost to Newcastle near the end of the year."

"They're our bogey team and caused us problems both times."

While he talks optimistically about Monaro's future, mention of the national team and his own ambitions brings out bitterness. To those who have seen the elegant striker in action over the past 10 years, it is no real surprise.

While lesser mortals gained prized green and gold shirts under a succession of national team bosses, Giampaolo had to make do largely with watching from the sidelines.

A couple of outings in friendlies were his only reward.

"Sometimes I used to think the national team set-up was a real joke," he said.

Get a Special
Team Promotion
Page in
Soccer Action
For Only
\$250

Contact
**PHIL
DIAMATARIS**
ON
605 4259



PRESTON LEAGUE

New Season Starting Soon!

★ MENS ★ JUNIORS ★ WOMENS
TEAMS WANTED

at Preston Technical School, Cramer St,
Preston

Contact DEAN PAROPAT 489 3963

THOMASTOWN LEAGUE

Teams Wanted For New Season.

★ MENS ★ JUNIORS ★ WOMENS
Main St, Thomastown

Contact DEAN PAROPAT 489 3963

New Leagues Opening At . . .

WATSONIA & DONCASTER
NEW TEAMS REQUIRED IN ALL CATE-
GORIES . . .

★ MENS ★ JUNIORS ★ WOMENS
ALLAN MACKAY 434 6029

HAWTHORN LEAGUE

NOW OPEN

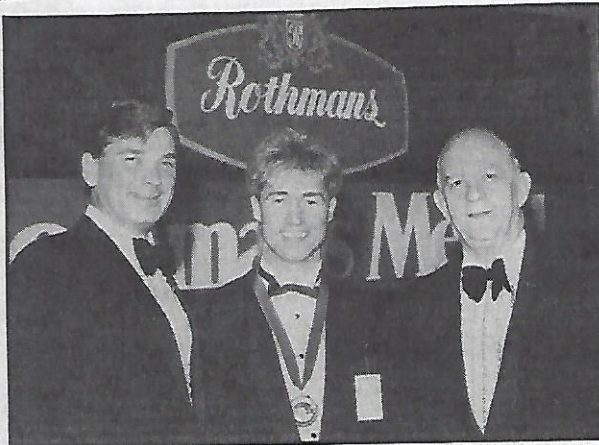
HAWTHORN RECREATION CENTRE

TEAMS WANTED

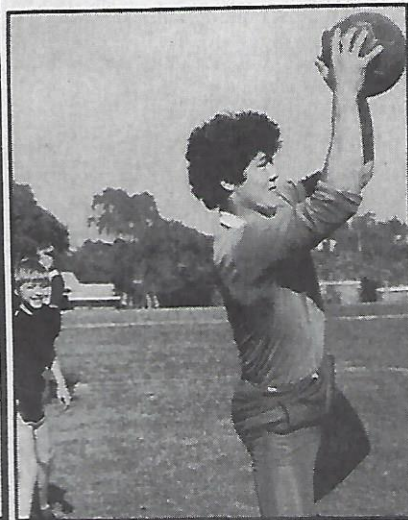
Contact LILLY COFFA 819 2444 or 819 2155

or Contact Victorian Director

WAYNE POLLOCK 80 3796



● Preston Makedonia recruit Ron Campbell (centre), winner of the 1985 Western Australian Rothmans Medal, flanked by Rothmans' manager Jim Long and state parliamentarian R.J. Williams. Campbell will move to Melbourne shortly.



● Alan Davidson tries his hand at goalkeeping during a coaching session for juniors.

Davidson on the outer?

Alan Davidson has been in Australia ever since the Socceroos' 0-0 draw with Scotland in Melbourne on December 4.

Davidson, still under contract to English club Nottingham Forest is resting a back injury.

Rumor has it that Forest manager Brian Clough is unhappy with Davidson over playing for Australia while injured — a rumor we are unable to confirm or deny because Davidson is unavailable for comment.

CRAIG
MACKENZIE

Rankin to go to court?

Adelaide City Juventus striker Peter Rankin is considering taking legal action to gain a clearance to Adelaide Croatia.

Negotiations collapsed last week when the clubs failed to agree on terms for the young speedster.

Rankin has alleged that Juventus broke his contract by failing to meet its financial obligations from 1981 to 1983.

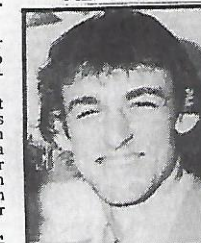
Former Kiwi international Glenn Dods also is in limbo as he attempts to gain a transfer from Adelaide City Juventus to Adelaide Croatia.

Dods, who played for New Zealand in the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain, retired from the Juventus NSL squad in 1984 because of business pressures, but he is prepared to meet Croatia's State League training schedule.

Rankin also is being sought by Campbelltown City in a swap deal with goalkeeper Lou Pivetta, but Rankin is keen to join his former SA Youth team boss Peter Jaksa at Croatia.

The former Footscray coach has already signed two former SA Youth team players — Darryl Pankhurst (Cumberland) and Mike Barnett (Birkalla) as well as picking up Lemmy Vasilas (Cumberland), and trying for Alby Briscoe and Peter Ammirato of Birkalla.

— ALLAN CRISP



● Peter Rankin

A blast for Blacktown, Marconi to finish top

Robert Wheatley is aiming for the 1986 NSL championship and for promotion to the Soccer squad after his \$25,000 transfer from Blacktown to Marconi.

He made 17 appearances for the national youth team and has been in the senior Soccer team six times — against Dinamo Zagreb, Fiji, Indonesia, Caroline Hill of Hong Kong and twice against Taiwan. All games were in 1981.

Wheatley, 23, a physical education teacher at Arthur Phillips High School in Parramatta, remains angry with Blacktown, where he

By
LAURIE SCHWAB

spent five years after joining on a free transfer from Kuringal. Blacktown's asking price was \$35,000 before the compromise of \$25,000 was agreed upon.

"I'm a defender. You look at a quality striker, and you'd be paying maybe \$50,000 if you paid \$25,000 for me," Wheatley said.

"I've left Blacktown on good terms with the players and the supporters, but I'm not happy with the committee over the price they put on my head."

He's expecting to surge to the top of the ladder with Marconi. And he expects the NSL to improve dramatically if it reverts to a 14-team format next season.

"Marconi was delighted with its third placing in 1985, and looking at the quality of its players, it's not unrealistic to expect to finish on the top this time," he said.

"David Lowe is looking really sharp and he'll have a great season. Peter Tredinnick started the Ampol Cup by scoring three goals in three games, whereas he scored hardly any in previous years. He'll fire this season, and I'm aiming to have a big year as well to justify the price Marconi paid for me."

About Mark Jankovic's likely move to Blacktown, Wheatley said: "We'd miss Mark. He has the knack for getting into the right position at the right time, and slotting the ball home, which makes him an invaluable player irrespective of what he does off the ball."

Wheatley believes the standard of play was higher when the NSL operated as only one league. "Blacktown was able to play in the regionalised league last year with three or four players who couldn't have got away with it under the old format," he said.

"We need a high level of competition to keep the players on their toes. And, if we had a better competi-



● Robert Wheatley (front row, second from left), with the 1980-81 national youth squad. From left, back row: Skeen, Radford, Ivanac, Belic, Gomez, Raskopoulos, Little, Lee. Middle row: Crino, Ahearn, Hunter, Blair, Dault, Mitchell, Wyatt. Front: Thorpe (gear), Wheatley, Kay, Weinstein (ASF vice-president), Gutendorf (coach), Emery (ASF secretary), Woods, Patikas.

tion, we may have been able to help guys like Oscar Crino and Jim Patikas, who have gone overseas.

"Now all the clubs are aiming to qualify for the 1987 league, so they've put a lot of effort into improving their teams. It's had a bad effect on the transfer market, but it's worth it to get the crowds back."

Wheatley decided to leave Blacktown simply because he wanted a change. Sydney Croatia also had made a bid for him, but Marconi was willing to spend more money.

"A player's professional career lasts maybe 10 or 15 years so, after five seasons, I thought it was time to move and perhaps to play with better quality players."

"I was intent on joining a club that buys perhaps two players a year rather than seven or eight, because that indicates greater stability and more potential for success."

He speculated that Blacktown's spending spree may not have the desired effect this year because it may take at least a season for the new players to blend into a good team.

A product of the Wahroonga juniors, Wheatley was in the NSW under 12 side that won the national championship but wasn't selected again until under 19 level, when his team again became Australian champion. Peter Raskopoulos (Olympic), Paul Kay (SC-Hakoah) and David Skeen (St George) also were in that side.

Wheatley played right back at the time, and switched to keeper only for the past two seasons.

"I like to attack, although my primary job is defensive. From the

sweeper's position you have the option to attack on the right, the left or through the middle, and perhaps score goals as well.

"I'm playing behind Tony Henderson, which surprised me at first, because I thought I'd have to vie with him for the sweeper's position. Instead, Les Scheinflug has made Tony the stopper and me the sweeper.

He'll make a good stopper because he's a good organiser, he's good in the air, and he's a great leader."

One of the major reasons that Wheatley decided to join Marconi was that he played his best soccer under Scheinflug in the national youth team, which briefly became

the senior team for the later World Cup qualifying games in 1981.

Wheatley has spoken to present Soccer coach Frank Arok socially but when he had his chance of getting back into the national squad, he contracted hepatitis and was out of action for 10 weeks last season.

Looking back over his five years in the NSL, Wheatley remembers Phil O'Connor, Grant Lee and Tony Morrell as his toughest opponents while he was playing at right back.

Since switching to sweeper he has been concerned more with opposing central strikers and, of these, John Kosmina, Kerry Caban, Marshall Soper, David Lowe and Rod Brown have been the toughest to beat.

Victoria, NSW clash

A big Melbourne-Sydney clash will take place at Olympic Park on Sunday, March 16.

It will be between the winner of the Buffalo Gold Cup and the winner of the NSW Ampol Cup.

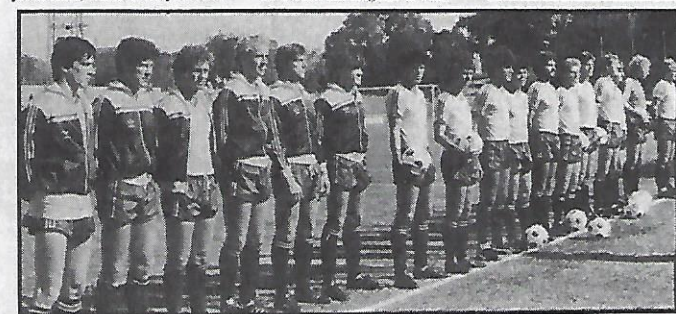
A second-leg match may be played in Sydney if sponsorship can be found.

It is the first time since 1972 that there has been a night series in interstate play-off.

That year St George Budapest beat Melbourne Croatia 4-1 at Marks Field and 1-0 at Olympic Park. Goalscorers, first leg: Alston 2, Hogg, Denton (St.G), Boban (Croatia); second leg: Alston (St.G).

Line-ups in the second leg: ST GEORGE: Fraser — Utjesenovic — Harris, Schaefer, Hamilton, Williams — Hogg, Abonyi, Ainslie — Denton (Herron 74th), Alston.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Kovacek — Gunn, Kondorovic, McArthur, Ivanovic — Benic, Horvat (Turlicar 74th), Mackay — McIntyre, Hadzavdic, Lamza (Boban 60th).



● Robert Wheatley (second from left) as one of the substitutes for a game against New Zealand at Olympic Park in 1983. From left: Soper, Wheatley, Raskopoulos, Henderson, Bertogna, James, Ratcliffe, Byrne, Katholos, Davidson, Christopoulos, P. O'Connor, Blair, Mitchell, Niven, Crook, Kosmina.

SPORTS EXTRA!!! 1986 PUMA RANGE NOW AVAILABLE



CHELSEA 4
Synthetic
recommended price
\$17.99



CHELSEA 5
Synthetic
recommended price
\$19.99



WORLD CUP



STEP STAR



DIEGO MARADONA



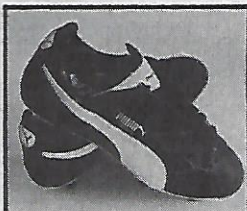
DERBY \$79.99



SANTOS



RAPID



BRAZIL



**S.P.A. MEXICO
\$89.99**



SUPER BOOT



CHELSEA



ARSENAL
P.U. coated Leather
recommended price
\$49.99



LIVERPOOL
Clarino Coated Leather
recommended price
\$35.99

SPORTS EXTRA!!!
66 BRIDGE RD. RICHMOND
(03) 429 3079
(INTERSTATE & COUNTRY ORDERS WELCOME)



How they got there

v Bolivia 1-1 (away) 3-0 (home), v Brazil 0-2 (home) 1-1 (away). First playoff: v Colombia 3-0 (home) 1-2 (away) — Aggregate 4-2. Second playoff: v Chile 3-0 (home) 2-2 (away) — Aggregate 5-2.



● Julio Cesar Romero (right) in action for New York Cosmos against Victoria's John Gardiner.

World Cup count-down: No. 2 — PARAGUAY



● Roberto Cabanas (right) in a race for the ball with Victoria's Peter Lewis.



● Paraguay, back row: Betreuer, Almeida, Delgado, Torales, Guaz, Zabala, Mendoza. Front: Villalba, Romero, Ferreira, Benitez, Cacera.

Paraguay's qualification for the World Cup Finals came as a surprise to many, but the South American team is hoping further shocks lie in store for its rivals in Mexico.

Paraguayan soccer fans are optimistic that after a 28-year absence from the finals the Paraguayans now have the individual skills and attacking flair to cause problems for Iraq, Belgium and Mexico in Group E.

"The best defence is attack, even against a better team," said head coach Cayetano Re in summing up his positive approach to the game.

Re describes himself as a fan of "total football" and says his players, who attack whenever possible and are complete strangers to man-to-man marking, are well suited to the style.

But he acknowledged the side had its faults. "They still lack speed in positioning themselves and in getting rid of the ball, but they have the basics which are talent, creativity and confidence."

The man to watch in the Paraguayan line-up is midfielder Julio Cesar Romero, or "Romerito", who plays for the Rio club Fluminense.

Romerito wears the number 10 jersey like Diego Maradona and, like the Argentine captain, he also provides the inspiration for his teammates.

He is known in Paraguay as "Mister America" after a Venezuelan magazine recently dubbed him the best player on the continent.

Argentines and Brazilians might raise a quizzical eyebrow at the description but there is no doubt that Romerito, with able support from fellow midfielders Adolfo Canete and Jorge Amado Nunes, is among the brightest stars of the Latin American football firmament.

Other notable players in the squad include striker Roberto Cabanas, now playing for the Colombian club America after a spell with the New York Cosmos, and two players from Colombia's Deportivo De Cali — goalkeeper Roberto Fernandez and forward Buenaventura Ferreira.

Paraguay first reached the World Cup Finals in 1930 where it lost against the United States and Belgium.

In the 1950 finals it managed a draw with Sweden but went down to Italy. Two World Cups later it was drubbed 7-3 by France, drew with Yugoslavia, and beat Scotland 3-2.

Paraguay reached Mexico by winning the play-offs between the runners-up in the Latin American qualifying groups.

It proved its pedigree by drawing 1-1 with the much-fancied Brazilians in Rio.

The squad for Mexico began practising recently for a tour to the United States and Canada.

THE VULTURE ALONE UP FRONT

World Cup count-down: No. 3 — SPAIN



● Ricardo Gallego

Spain, humiliatingly beaten on home soil during its unhappy hosting of the 1982 World Cup finals, will travel to Mexico for this year's tournament with a rebuilt team and lofty ambitions following its confident showing at the 1982 European Championship finals in France.

Under the paternal guidance of coach Miguel Munoz, who took over from Uru-

guayan-born Jose Santamaria following the 1982 disappointment, the Spanish team has been patiently remoulded around a solid defence and hard-working midfield with two or three skilful strikers in attack.

It has been a gradual evolution. But the work has paid off with a run of generally good results. Since 1982, Spain has played 32 games, won 17, drawn nine and lost six — and finished second in Paris.

Munoz, 62, who won four European Cup-winner's medals as a player with Real Madrid, believes his team is better-equipped than in the past. "Our basic team is hard to beat and our mentality more adequate than in other

From PEDRO DIEZ

World Cups," he said.

A 2-0 win over the Soviet Union in Las Palmas on January 22 confirmed the team's consistency following a 0-0 draw with Austria and a 2-0 win against Bulgaria in previous warm-up games.

The team faces further home friendlies against Belgium and Poland, in which to underline its progress before travelling to Mexico on May 5.

Spain's best showing in six World Cup finals appearances was fourth place in the 1950 finals. In Argentina in 1978, it went out in the second round.

In preparation for an improved showing in the 1986 finals, Spain will spend nine days in light training in Tlaxcala to get used to Mexico's altitude and then play four or five local sides before facing Brazil on June 1.

Northern Ireland and Algeria will be Spain's other rivals in Group D.

To avoid upset stomachs and homesickness, the squad will travel with its own cook and the players' wives will stay in Pusbila, two hours away from Tlaxcala.

But, as Munoz admits, even such detailed preparations will not assist him in overcoming his team's basic weakness — a lack of world-class strikers to add a finishing touch though he does not think Spain's opponents are any better off.

Munoz said: "The 4-4-2 scheme will dominate the Mexico finals. Strikers with



● Spain, back row: Arconada, Garcia, Alberto, Urquiza, Gallego, Camacho. Front: Carrasco, Munoz, Senor, Santillana, Alfaro.

little mobility won't have a chance.

"We have no problems in defence or midfield. Our problems are the same as the others — strikers. We don't have them in Spain and you only have to look at the leading scorers' table, topped by foreigners."

Spain does have at least one top-class striker, however, in Real Madrid's 22-year-old star Emilio Butragueno, known as "The Vulture."

Although he has been below his best recently, Butragueno is a rare Spaniard who can dribble with the ball seemingly glued to his boot, sprint when speed is called for and still have the extra stamina to score.

Real Betis' striker Hipolito Rincon, an outstanding opportunist, and Barcelona winger Marcos Alonso, a specialist in inviting fouls in the penalty area, are Butragueno's normal partners in attack.

Behind them, Real Madrid's Ricardo Gallego and Rafael Gordillo run a fast-moving midfield often supported by the attacking sorters of defenders Antonio Maceda and captain Jose Camacho, two adventurous full-backs.

In defence, Barcelona's Victor Munoz and athletic Bilbao's Andoni Goikotxe, once dubbed "the butcher of Bilbao" after his severe treatment of Barcelona stars Diego Maradona and Bernd Schuster, are typical of a rearguard that does not believe in taking prisoners.

Behind them, Bilbao, goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, who has taken over from the veteran Luis Arconada, is a reliable player and particularly strong in the air.

It is a talented squad and one capable of upsetting the best on its day. Brazil manager Tele Santana said he was impressed with their performance against the Soviet Union after watching the match on television.

"Considering they played without three or four key players, including Gordillo, I'm convinced Spain are very strong as a team," he said.

Munoz was more cautious. He said: "We're making progress and, if we keep it up, I'll be even more optimistic about the World Cup, but there's still a long way to go."

The players are unlikely to be sidetracked by off-field worries over bonuses. Although the payments have not been set, they are currently negotiating for a slight increase on the \$60,000 per game (about \$44,300) per game they collected for last year's qualifying matches.

Furthermore, a publicity deal with Coca-Cola is being discussed and the squad



● Emilio Butragueno — was top scorer of the Spanish Second Division with Real Madrid's nursery club, Castilla known as El Buitre — The Vulture.

FIFA World Cup Finals — MEXICO 1986

Combine your Holiday in BRITAIN or EUROPE with a visit to MEXICO For The 'FIFA WORLD CUP FINALS SERIES' in June, 1986

Early booking is essential to reserve your place

For details, complete and mail coupon below

To AMETCO TRAVEL P/L PO Box 450, Ringwood, Vic, 3134 Please send me details of 'World Cup' holiday packages.

1. Direct packages to Mexico only
2. Packages including UK and Mexico

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
PHONE NO's. Home..... Bus.....

AMETCO TRAVEL PTY LTD
(accredited IATA — Member AFTA)
20 Whitehorse Rd, Ringwood
Tel: 870 5066

World Cup groups

GROUP A: Italy, Bulgaria, Argentina, South Korea.

GROUP B: Mexico, Belgium, Paraguay, Iraq.

GROUP C: France, Canada, USSR, Hungary.

GROUP D: Brazil, Spain, Algeria, Northern Ireland.

GROUP E: West Germany, Uruguay, Scotland, Denmark.

GROUP F: Poland, Morocco, Portugal, England.



● Fleming ● Shoulder ● Alston ● Rasie

By CRAIG MacKENZIE

Alex Bundalo thinks that John Fleming thinks that Alex Bundalo's a smartarse.

Alex Bundalo also thinks that Wollongong treated Adrian Alston badly in the way they parted company, that Jim Shoulder should have varied his tactics with the national youth team in the USSR last year, that under coach Rale Rasie APFA will have a big year and that one day he (Bundalo) will be a full Australian international.

"He stopped working to concentrate on soccer. It's his whole life. He only lives for the day when he plays a full international with the senior team," says Rasie of Bundalo, the 19-year-old who was transferred from Wollongong to APFA for \$3000 this year.

Bundalo confirms Rasie's statement: "I'm curious with my dad who's a builder — very, very casual."

There's nothing casual about Bundalo's attitude when he discusses Fleming, the new Wollongong coach.

"I don't respect him at all as a coach. When we played together (at Wollongong in 1984) he used to get right up me. We never got on. I think he thought

that I was a young smartarse. I thought that he was... uh, maybe I'd better not say."

It was "Noddy" Alston who convinced Yugoslav-born Bundalo to take a tilt at the NSL with Wollongong. Alston also convinced the silky-skilled midfielder to move to Sydney this season and has been helping him with contractual matters. Incidentally, Bundalo hadn't signed a contract with APFA as we went to press but "there won't be any hassles there". He wants a one-year contract. APFA wants him to sign for two years. He'll sort it out this week.

Bundalo was two years old when he arrived in Australia from Novi Sad. He played with Kensington and the Southern and Eastern representative team until his family moved to Wollongong. He joined Fairy Meadow, making his first team debut when he was 16. By then he had regularly tasted representative soccer with NSW and the Australian schoolboys. Casey de Bruin and Mike Johnson coached him at Fairy Meadow until Alston enticed him to Wollongong for the 1984 season.

"Casey was great. I've got a lot of respect for him. To be honest I thought that Mike's methods were strange at first

but, as I started to play more consistently, I started to realise what he was on about and I've got a lot of respect for him too."

Bundalo played for the young Socceroos in last year's World Youth Championships in the USSR. Australian fans were hoping that the lads would at least reach the quarter finals. The lads themselves, according to Bundalo, harbored a secret desire to reach the final and shock the world. That they were so far off target (they didn't reach the quarter finals) must have disappointed them. "I was disappointed. There were quite a few problems with the team. We were okay physically but we weren't that good technically. The tactics for all three finals games were the same. We'd developed them during the 1984 Merlion Cup in Singapore. We were supposed to hit the corner flags all the time. We didn't even have to look up, just go bang and aim for the corner flags and the forwards were supposed to be there every time because they

knew what we were doing."

Strange tactics? "I didn't like playing like that. It meant that the defenders were just pumping long balls forward and the midfielders didn't get involved enough. I've got to be involved. If you don't touch the ball for 20 minutes, you cool down. And against Canada I played right back which isn't my spot. I'm not that good defensively."

St George and APFA both were in the race to sign Bundalo. Alston's sacking, late last year, had been the final straw for the teenager and he set his sights firmly on moving to Sydney.

"Wollongong didn't treat 'Noddy' fairly. He had put in his application for the coaching job, but as far as I know he wasn't really considered. It was 'Noddy' who told me to go to Sydney. He said that if I established myself there I'd be set."

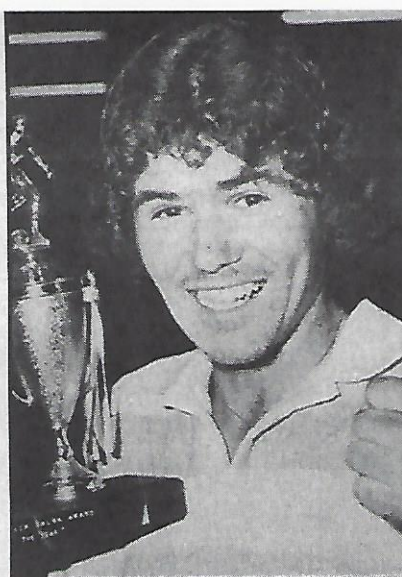
"I wanted to play under a good coach, either Rale Rasie or Frank Arok. APFA made me the better offer and was much more direct in its approach."

Rale said to me that he'd keep a close check on me and be there all the time to talk about my development. Frank has a lot on his mind with the national team and I thought that maybe he wouldn't have the time to watch me as closely."

Bundalo has made four Ampol Cup appearances with APFA this season. He did "only all right" in his first game and was nervous in his second: "People expect a fair bit from me. You hear them saying 'There's Bundalo. He's a youth international.' It can get to you a bit but it's something you've got to come to terms with."

I'm playing an attacking role on the right side of midfield and loving it. Rale says that I've got to help out a bit in defence but the emphasis is on going forward and scoring and that suits me fine."

"We're looking pretty good. We've got a couple of young blokes and a couple of old blokes and a coach to mould us together. I think we'll have a good year."



● Alex Bundalo — thumbs up for a successful 1986 season.

Soccer has the cure for cricket's ills



LES MURRAY

Speaking of other sports, I have been watching with beguiling fascination Australian cricket thresh about in its sickly state over the past year.

Yes, as surprising as it may sound coming from a central European migrant nourished on soccer all his life, I am a passionate cricket fan.

I think like soccer, or soccer ought to be, it is a game of grace, elegance and science. And all of the migrants I have spoken to who view the game with a squirm of distaste do so because they do not understand it.

But as a soccer man familiar with how professional soccer is run and especially how national teams are picked and prepared, I find the way the Australian cricket team is run bewilderingly amateurish.

They have for instance a quartet of "selectors". This in 1986, about a hundred years after soccer and other sports have found out that there can never be any such things as "selectors" only "a selector".

And that selector, so that no other meddling fool can interfere with him until failure brings his eventual sacking, is responsible for all technical aspects of the team's play.

It is ridiculous for instance to expect the captain to come up with the right tactics when it is another panel of selectors who pick his players.

I suggest to the Australian Cricket Board, which is not exactly likely to read these pages, to take a leaf from soccer's book and appoint a national team coach with full, wide-ranging powers in all matters of team selection and coaching.

And, at the end of this inglorious cricket season, they should begin with a step that would be taken in soccer and most other professional sports.

If the selectors and the captain are jointly responsible for the team's overall per-

formance — they should sack the selectors and the captain.

Rugby

The encouraging rugby league world of Sydney, especially its newspaper writers, are agog with the news that an international television deal has been struck — a deal that will expose the "greatest game of all" to millions in two continents.

One enthusiastic writer even splits these continents into four.

The deal will give wide exposure to the game in North America, Britain, Europe and Scandinavia, he wrote.

Ken Arthurson, the Rugby League chief who engineered the deal, and others of his ilk, have been seen strutting about town with curling, ear-to-ear grins committed to their faces at the thought that their game will at last be discovered by the pagans and it will no doubt eventually become the true world game it isn't and never has been.

Well I have news for them, as would anybody who has seen soccer's struggle for acceptance in this country for decades.

Firstly Rugby League is already seen on cable television in North America and as yet there is little sign of its discovery leading to a mushroom of popularity.

In Britain of course rugby league is as old as it is in Australia and nearly a century has failed to move beyond the tight confines of a sprinkling of bleak, industrial towns and villages in England's north.

The one numbing historic fact is that no game, no sport, in the century and a half that sport has become a notable preoccupation in the civilised world, has yet dislodged another as a country's most popular sport.



● John Campelj (front, left) with the Sunshine-George Cross team. From left, standing: Noel Mitten, Tyrone James, Carl Gilder, Lou Kastner, Steve Richardson, Gerry Bennett, Ossie Latif (now J.U.S.T.). Front: Campelj, Roger Bain, Jeff Faulkner, Mark Lennon, Chris Taylor, Don McLaren.

By CRAIG MacKENZIE

Thanks to Steve Richardson and Shaun Parton, John Campelj has started in whirlwind fashion in his bid to break the Weinstein Medal hoodoo.

"If Steve hadn't been stranded in Scotland with visa problems I mightn't have got my game," said Campelj, who has been one of George Cross's top players in the 1986 Buffalo Cup.

"Shaun's the best signing Sunshine-George Cross ever made. He'll do more for our club than any other newcomer. I mean that. Even more than Tyrone (James). Shaun's presence on the park is absolutely incredible. I'm pretty weak at heading but I don't have to worry about that now."

"Shaun has taken a lot of pressure off me, so much so that I can get forward a lot more now. I think Chris (Taylor) feels the same way. We know that we can rely on Tyrone and Shaun to clean up everything at the back."

If Campelj establishes himself in the NSL this year, he'll have created a springboard on which to build a fine future, unlike other winners of the Weinstein Medal for the best junior player in Victoria. Warren Spink apart, Weinstein Medal winners haven't gone on to bigger and better things. The winners of the medal have been: Reno Lia (1975), Colin Allison (1976), Alex Rivero (1977), Roberto Traffante (1978), Greg McLeod (1979), Dane Beranic (1980), Campelj (1981), Spink (1982), Con Kiakos (1983), David Healy (1984) and Paul Trimboli (1985).

If keeping your feet firmly on the ground is an essential prerequisite for success in soccer, Campelj will make it. He's among the leaders in the best player award for the Buffalo Cup yet rates himself the 11th best player in the George Cross starting line-up. "I reckon if John Gardiner bought a defender then I'd be the first to drop out of the side. I don't regard myself anywhere near established yet. I played early last year but when Tyrone arrived he took my spot. That's nothing personal against Tyrone because he's a great guy. That's soccer, I suppose. I was disappointed. Who wouldn't be? There's no way that you can take your selection for granted, though."

Like so many before him, Campelj speaks of coach Gardiner in glowing terms. "I'd met John at training camps with Tim White before he joined us and I was impressed with him from day one. In just a year and a bit he's improved my game over 100 percent. Jimmy Rooney (Gardiner's assistant) also has been a great help. I owe them a lot. My dad, too. He's driven me all over Victoria throughout my junior and senior career."

"At the start of last season I told John that I didn't think that I could play the fullback role the way he wanted but he's improved my vision and my preparation for receiving the ball."

"I think my stamina is one of my strengths. I suppose I'm okay in the tackle and my skills are moderate, certainly nothing like the skills of Steve Gojovic. I'm not that quick, in fact it's embarrassing sometimes when I can't be up with the leaders during sprint training, but I train hard and always give it everything I've got. At one stage I thought about joining an athletics club to improve my speed but it would have interfered with soccer training so I gave it a miss."

Modest Campelj sings the praises of Parton

For all your Club and Personal SOCCER REQUIREMENTS

- * Inter Soccer Shirts (as worn by to N.S.L. clubs) — many styles to choose from including . . . New Shadow styles from Europe.
- * Shorts and Socks * Track Suits
- * Training Bibs * Balls — match & training
- * Complete range of Uhlsport Goalkeepers Gloves, Tops (new styles), Shorts, Training Pants — Uhlsport Balls and Shinpads.
- * Referees Tops and Shorts and Accessories.
- * Soccer Boots — large range including — Patrick, Lotto, Diadora, New Balance.
- * Club Discounts

(country & interstate clubs welcome to enquire)

NORTHCOTE SPORTS CENTRE

555 HIGH ST NORTHCOTE
(opposite Gouds Toyota)
(03) 481 2755

WE WILL BETTER ANY PRICE PREVIOUSLY QUOTED TO YOU. 250,000 PASSENGERS CAN'T BE WRONG

METRO TRAVEL

Vineyard House
13th Floor, 291, George St
Sydney, NSW, 2000
Phone (02) 290 3866

METRO TRAVEL

365 Victoria Street,
Abbotsford, Vic. 3067
Phone (03) 429 6722

PROUD TO BE CROATIA
WE WILL BETTER ANY PRICE PRI
250,000 PASSENGER

Best Wishes To Our Croatian
Sydney Croatia... For The 1

METRO TRAVEL
 365 Victoria Street, Abbotsford,
 Vic 3067
PHONE (03) 429 6722

MELBOURNE CROATIA



Croatia's match schedule for '86

HOME

Round 2, April 6: v Juventus
 Round 4, April 20: v Footscray JUST
 Round 6, May 11: v Adel. City Juventus
 Round 9, June 8: v George Cross
 Round 11, June 22: v West Ad. Hellas
 Round 13, July 6: v Heidelberg
 Round 15, July 20: v Brisbane Lions
 Round 17, August 10: v SM-Hellas
 Round 18, August 17: v Makedonia
 Round 20, August 31: v Brisbane City
 Round 22, September 14: v Green Gully

**ADRIATIC
TEXTILES
AND STAFF PTY LTD**
 Clothing Manufacturers
**10 MANTELL ST
COBURG**
 Phone - 350 2992
**"COME ON CROATIA — WE
ARE THE CHAMPIONS"**

DELMA
 Inter-Continental Deli
*"For All Your Smallgoods
and Grocery
Requirements"*
 SHOP 13, DEER PARK
SHOPPING CENTRE — DEER
PARK
 PHONE 363 2844
 Branko Kuzmar — Proprietor
**"1986 — YEAR FOR
CROATIA"**

M. SOP A.A.S.A., C.D.A., A.A.I.M.
& ASSOCIATES
 Certified Practicing
 Accountants
 Registered Tax Agents
 HEAD OFFICE: 84 Whitehall St
Footscray 3011
Ph 689 4977
 GEELONG OFFICE: 127 Separation St
Nth Geelong 3215
Ph (052) 78 6365
*"Management and Staff Wish
Croatia The Best of Luck For
Season 1986"*

**BETTER TYRE
SERVICE**
DISCOUNT TYRES
 — MECHANICAL REPAIRS —
 FRONT END WORK — BRAKE
 AND CLUTCH REPAIRS —
 COMPUTER BALANCE —
 EXHAUST SYSTEMS
**At BOURKE INDUSTRIAL
COMPLEX**
 Bourke St, Braybrook
 Phone:- 311 2488 ask for Vince or Mat

**Discount
PANE**
 Specialists
 "COME IN
47 C
Abi
Phone
All The B
The Best

A'S MAJOR SPONSOR VIOUSLY QUOTED TO YOU!!! S CAN'T BE WRONG

Teams — Melbourne Croatia and
86 National League Season

● Back row: Luka Bonacic, Tony Redmond, Jack Bacak, Tomislav Zilic, Aki Kotzamichalis, Dave McIntosh, Gary Ward, Robert Markovac, Drago Deankovic, Andrew Albert (assistant coach), Miron Bleiberg (senior coach). Front row: Tomislav Protudjer, Mark Talajic, John Gusic, Zeljko Govic, Mirko Runje, Steve Gojevic, Josip Biskic, Ivan Jurcic, Goran Trogrlic. Missing: Tony Curcio, Jim Campbell, Victor Cristaldo.



METRO TRAVEL
VINEYARD HOUSE
13th Floor 291 George St, Sydney, NSW
2000
PHONE (02) 290 3866

SPLIT AUTO REPAIRS

For all major or minor panel repairs

- ★ Specialists on Mercedes Benz
- SPRAY PAINTING • INSURANCE WORK

**103 HORNE ST,
CAMPBELLFIELD**
Contact:- **Darren Zilic**
Ph 359 6926

BAMBARA TRUCK REPAIRS

For all your truck repairs and maintenance

**10 BAMBARA CRT
WEST SUNSHINE**

Phone - 311 9505

Proprietor:- S & E Poljicar

PAINTING SERVICE

Complete painting service and high quality decorators

- ★ PAINTING & Paper hanging
- ★ FREE QUOTATION

Phone:- 589 5529

Ask for Mr Plecic

M & S BARAC ELECTRICS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

All types of electrical installation

- ★ DOMESTIC ★ COMMERCIAL

**16 MILLARD ST,
LOWER TEMPLESTOWE**
Ph 850 1757 ask for
Steve

7 DAYS A WEEK

AWAY

Round 1, March 30: v Green Gully
Round 3, April 13: v Heidelberg
Round 5, May 4: v Brisbane Lions
Round 7, May 18: v SM-Hellas
Round 8, May 25: v Makedonia
Round 10, June 15: v Brisbane City
Round 12, June 29: v Juventus
Round 14, July 13: v Footscray JUST
Round 16, August 3: v Adel C. Juventus
Round 19, August 24: v George Cross
Round 21, September 7: v West Ad Hellas

Body Repairs

BEATERS

All Major and Mi-
Repairs

FOR A QUOTE"

urch St,

otsford

- 428 5680

ys Wish Croatia

For The 1986

Season

Nu-Tune Auto Repairs

LICENSED VEHICLE TESTER

We Specialise In All Mechanical Repairs.
Cars & Trucks Included



344 RACECOURSE RD, NEWMARKET

PHONE: 376 8319

Ask For Steven Mandekil


Phone 366-8055

A/H: 367-6269

TRIBE CUK PTY LTD
LICENSED ESTATE AGENTS & AUCTIONEERS
346 Main Road West, St. Albans.

JOSEPH CUK — Managing Director.
Commissioner for Declarations & Affidavits.

DEPENDABLE
NORTH
AUSTRALIA



"INGE"

DETECTIVE AGENCY

Est. in Melbourne 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

**OVER 27 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN
DETECTION, PROTECTION AND SERVICE**

Recognised for:

ETHICS, INTEGRITY, SERVICE AND DISCRETION
We will call and discuss your case without obligation

RECOMMENDED BY SOLICITORS AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

SPECIALISTS FOR ALL TYPES OF COMMERCIAL, CRIMINAL, DOMESTIC,
INDUSTRIAL, INSURANCE, MATRIMONIAL, PRIVATE & SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS.

- Business Disputes • Child Custody • Counter Industrial Espionage
- Drug and Cult Investigations • Insurance Claims • Internal Undercover
- Security • Location of Missing Persons • Matrimonial Inquiries
- Background and peace of mind reports • Pre-trial defence inquiries
- Protection for V.I.P.'s and Business Executives • Undercover surveillance.

We provide
EXPERT MALE & FEMALE AGENTS
Most modern detection, photographic & communication equipment
All European languages spoken
Lic. Nom. J. E. Abalon

WIDE SERVICE

WEST

602 4777, 602 4833

After Hours: 848 7820

305 LATROBE STREET, MELBOURNE
3000

EAST

HIGH CLASS DETE

CTIVE SERVICE

SOUTH
24 HOURS

"OUR TEAM OF CHAMPIONS"

7 DAYS A WEEK

BUFFALO
SPORTS

BUFFALO SPORTS

OFFICIAL SPONSOR
TO V.S.F.



BURIN QUITS CROATIA



● Alex Livingstone (right) of Croydon fires a shot between Heidelberg's Ian McKie (left) and Andy Higgins

Tzintzis set to sizzle!

Heidelberg 2 Croydon 1

Score: Higgs 12th, Christopoulos 55th; Croydon: Humble 39th.
Heidelberg coach Brian Garvey commented by shifting recent recruit Andy Higgins from centre forward to central midfielder, but Higgins was replaced by Steve Tasios during the second half.

In other changes, George Christopoulos, who scored the winning goal, went from midfield to the sweeper position, while the previous sweeper, Steve Marley, reverted to left back where he excelled.

The first-half form of Paul Tzintzis suggested that he with an injury-free run, he

Billy Connolly to present Gorbals Cup

What has Victorian Director of Coaching Tim White got in common with Scottish comedian Billy Connolly?

No, the answer isn't that they're both Celtic fans. They've both been invited by Victorian Provisional League club Lyndale United to present the winner with the 1986 Gorbals Cup, to be held at Barry Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North on Sunday, February 23.

The teams taking part are: Prabhant Celtic (the holder), Lyndale United, Mitcham, Dingley, Cranbourne, North Dandenong, Dundee Weavers and, believe it or not, Dinamo Split (obviously a Highland League side).

The "all-Scottish" day kicks off with the first match at 10am. Pipers, highland dancing and good Scottish grub should ensure that the second annual Gorbals Cup is as successful as the inaugural event. Lyndale has appointed former Hawthorn assistant coach Ian Cowan as senior coach. His assistant is Lou Isaacs.

M.Croatia 2 B.Juventus 0

Score: Ward 26th, Markovac 44th.

Melbourne Croatia emerged as outright favorite for the 1986 Buffalo Cup with this display but in the process lost the services of manager Frank Burin who has served the club since 1959.

Burin was involved in a heated argument before the game — over a team photograph for "Soccer Action". Burin was acting in the club's best interests when he arranged for the photo to be taken with Croatia players wearing strips with "Metro Travel" emblazoned across them. Mr. Harry Mirka, the director of Metro Travel, Croatia's main sponsor, was insistent that his company's name appear in the photo which appears on pages eight and nine of this issue.

Burin had arranged with coach Miron Bleiberg that the players would wear the Metro Travel strip for the team photo then change into their Buffalo strips for the match. Some players were unhappy about doing so, goodness knows why, and Bleiberg apparently changed his mind after agreeing to Burin's request the previous night. The ensuing argument between Burin and another club official forced Burin to quit.

"My authority was undermined and my reputation and credibility seriously damaged. I simply was trying to promote Croatia and please

Man of the match: DRAGO DEANKOVIC (M. Croatia)

our major sponsor, which should be the duty of every club official," said Burin.

Croatia's fortunes on the field are flying far higher, however.

It almost opened the scoring against Juventus in the 6th minute.

Steve Gojevic's cross was deflected, the ball falling at the feet of Robert Markovac. His shot from close range beat Paul Markovac, struck the near post then rolled across the goal line. Joe Palatsides slid down and cleared.

Luka Bonacic, having his best game for Croatia so far, deliberately handled the ball which Petersen was aiming at Rob Cullen in the 18th minute. Referee Bernie Upjohn was on the spot immediately but didn't book Bonacic, who bowed politely as soon as he committed the indiscretion.

Croatia opened its account in sensational fashion in the 26th minute. Juventus was pushing up quickly, trying to spring the offside trap. The ball was played to Deankovic wide on the right. He completely wrongfooted Petersen by pretending to meet the ball and cross it first time then suddenly letting it run and racing toward the Juventus area. Markovac charged off

his line and brought down Deankovic. Upjohn pointed to the penalty spot.

Ward's attempt was parried by Markovac but the young goalkeeper was helpless as Ward thumped in the rebound.

Just before half time, Markovac did well to backpedal and tip over a Deankovic cross intended for the far post.

Bleiberg's blunder in the 44th minute put the match out of Juve's reach. Markovac had no chance of reaching the ball but still raced after it. Markovac picked it up then dropped it and Markovac's persistence was rewarded. Markovac, on a tight angle on the left, struck the ball into the unguarded goal to make it 2-0.

Croatia's defence was outstanding. Sweeney found his match in big Dave McIntosh. Rob Cullen made few inroads against George Harnett. Deankovic charged forward almost at will on the right while anything that needed to be picked up and cleared was done so in style by Tony Curcio. Mirko Runje also gave a mention superbly. In a short time, he has become a commanding figure in goal and really impresses with the way he attacks high balls.

Croatia had two more chances to score. Markovac did well to smother Gojevic's shot in the 62nd minute and right on full time Gojevic and substitute Victor Cristaldo played a one-two with Cristaldo's cross being headed just wide by Biskic.

CRAIG MACKENZIE

Man of the match: STEVE MARLEY (Heidelberg)

could be one of the most exciting players in Australia this year. Tzintzis missed the 1985 season due to a serious leg injury.

That creates a problem for Higgins, the English centre forward or centre back who now faces enormous competition from not only Tzintzis, John Metaxas and Peter Tsolakis up front, but also Tasios in midfield.

Croydon, after falling behind, fought its way back into the game due to the speed and toughness of Andy Humble up front, and because Heidelberg had only one effective midfielder, Theo Selemidis. The third midfielder, Chris Keskakidis, really is a left back or stopper.

Croydon right back Mark Brown kept a tight grip on Heidelberg's star winger Tsolakis, while Alan Hunter should have marked a lot tighter in Heidelberg's defence.

On the other hand, Hunter easily could have scored. He came close with a header early on, and then hit the crossbar with another.

It was a brilliant run by Tzintzis that set up Heidelberg's first goal in the 12th minute. He skipped past challenges galore, tried a square pass that rebounded back to him, and then got the ball over to Metaxas who side-footed it home on the volley.

Higgins was hurt in a clash with Graham French and needed treatment just before Selemidis was dumped in the penalty area. Heidelberg appeared to have a good case for a penalty, but appeals were turned down by referee John Fraser.

In the 23rd minute, Metaxas sent the ball square to Tzintzis who rifled it narrowly past the post. Moments later, Tzintzis dribbled past three opponents but was fouled by goalkeeper Peter Blasby who dived at Tzintzis's feet, hurting himself in the process.

Croydon equalised four minutes after half time when Humble ran only a pass from French and belted it low past Oliver.

Tsolakis took a free kick close to goal in the 55th minute. It rebounded off the defensive wall to Christopoulos who, although off balance, stretched and managed to steer it past Blasby into the side of goal to put Heidelberg back into the lead.

LAURIE SCHWAB

Cole, Lane outshine Vukcevic, Nikitovic

Makedonia 1 J.U.S.T. 0

Score:

The sparkling form of Makedonia strikers Gary Cole and Sean Lane overshadowed the appearance of two of J.U.S.T.'s imports, goalkeeper Zoran Nikitovic and sweeper Vojislav Vukcevic.

Nikitovic had a solid but unspectacular debut, and although Vukcevic played a few first-time long balls which went straight to a team-mate's feet, he didn't look quick. Whether or not his positional sense and experience will enable him to overcome what, at first sight, appears to be a weakness, remains to be seen.

In Vukcevic's defence, it must be said that 26 degree temperatures for a 22-year-old Yugoslav playing his first game for a new club two days after arriving in the country aren't conducive to smooth assimilation.

Already, a president of a rival NSL club is saying that Vukcevic won't make it here. His assessment was made at half time, so in just 35 minutes this president had seen fit to form a well-rounded opinion on every aspect of Vukcevic the player. Could that be a slightly premature judgement?

Makedonia newcomers Mike McLennan and Nick van Eg-

Man of the match: GARY COLE (Makedonia)

mond had their best games so far while another newcomer, Ian Roodhouse, continued to look like someone who's won Makedonia's colors in the NSL for the last couple of years. Makedonia also featured Paul Koussas from his youth team and he did well for a first-

Ljube Petrovski's \$3,000 transfer to J.U.S.T. had gone through hours before the game so, ironically, he found himself playing against the club he has served so well.

Makedonia's disappointment with some refereeing decisions in the Buffalo Cup wasn't eased when referee Stuart Mellings waved play on in the 8th minute, leaving van Egmond sprawled headlong inside the J.U.S.T. area. George Petrov had played a cheeky backheel out wide on the right and as Paul Koussas was about to slip past Vukcevic the J.U.S.T. defender tripped him. Clearly, but not clearly enough for referee Mellings.

A superb turn and far post cross from Lane in the 10th minute picked out van Egmond

with Cole at his back. There was time to bring the ball down then shoot but van Egmond hit it first time on the volley and it whistled just over the bar. Six minutes later Makedonia hit the front.

Ian Roodhouse took a long throw from the right. The ball went to Cole who controlled it on his knee, spun around then hammered a low drive past Nikitovic. The amount of power Cole was given almost on the edge of the six yard box was incredible. What were Vukcevic, Tom Karic and Zdravko Lujic thinking of?

A superb throw ball by Cole in the 28th minute sent van Egmond on his way but the youngster cut the ball back too sharply and J.U.S.T. was let off the hook.

Six minutes into the second half with Ljubo Barjakarevic on in place of Goran Nedelkovski and Lujic pushed forward, Lujic's cross to the far post was met by Bill Lazopoulos who headed just wide when he should at least have been on target.

Makedonia kept pressuring J.U.S.T. and a long, lob toward the far post from Billy Piculovski was controlled well by Lane who then shot well over. J.U.S.T.'s best chance late in the game came in the 63rd minute. Ernie Tapai started the move and almost finished it off. Tapai played a superb long pass to Lujic on the left then took off into the middle. Lujic crossed and despite his lunge, Tapai missed with an attempted header.

But it was all Makedonia in the last five minutes. A great ball by van Egmond in the 65th minute found Koussas. He cut inside a defender but shot well wide. A minute later, Cole could have shot from just outside the area. Instead he deftly knocked the ball to his left and Lane cracked a wicked left footer against the near post.

In the 88th minute, Cole played the ball to van Egmond who rushed his shot, sending the ball well over from the right of the area.

CRAIG MACKENZIE

Match details

BOX HILL 1 (Griffin 45th) GEORGE CROSS 0.
Crowd: 610. **Referee:** Mike Gaut 8. **Cautions:** A. McMillan (BH).

BOX HILL McKinlay 9 — McPhee 7, Brooks 8, A. McMillan 8, A. Roodhouse 7 — Azopardi 7, Burton 7, Hennessy 7, Ramos 5 — Griffin 6, Lawler 5. **Coach:** Keith Webster.
GEORGE CROSS Kastner 7 — Taylor 7, James 8, Parton 8, Campbell 8 — Faulkner 7, MacLaren 7, Bain 7 — Gardiner 5 (Janklovski 60th), Gilder 7, Lennon 5. **Coach:** John Gardiner.

GREEN GULLY 1 (Blair own goal 5th) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (McDowall 32nd). **Referee:** John Stojkovic 10. **Cautions:** McLelland (GG), Miranda (SMH).

GREEN GULLY: Denys 6 — Vizzini 6, Cannell 5, McLelland 6, Drakeford 5 — Carter 8, Flavel 6, Barichello (inj. sub Krjacic 5, 26th) — Cumming 7, Lewis 7, Lucchesi 5. **Coach:** George Murray.
HELLAS: Laumets 6 — Postecoglou 5, Russell 6, Blair 6, Mihos 3 — Halford 5, Murphy 8, Miranda 5 (Kanesovits 56th), Brown 5 — McDowall 7, Egan 6. **Coach:** John Margaritis.

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER 2 (Metaxas 12th, Christopoulos 55th) CROYDON CITY 1 (Humble 39th). **Referee:** John Fraser 6. **Cautions:** Hunter (H), McKie (H), Humble (C).

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 7 — McKie 7, Christopoulos 7, Hunter 5, Marley 8 — Selemidis 6, Higgins 4 (Tasios 46th), Katsakidis 4 — Metaxas 7, Tsolakis 6. **Coach:** Brian Garvey.
CROYDON: Blasby 6 — Brown 7, Taylor 6, O'Reilly 5, Christopoulos 5 — McDonald 5 (O'Shay 56th), McLean 5, Beech 5 — French 5, Humble 6, Livingstone 7. **Coach:** Peter Ollerton.

MORWELL FALCONS 3 (Bruna 1st, Wilson 23rd, O'Callaghan 69th) WESTERN SUBURBS 0. **Referee:** Torben Sorenson 2. **Sent off:** McGuinness 32nd, Beattie 47th, Stenson 54th. **Cautions:** O'Callaghan (MF), Stenson (WS), van Baar (MF), Beattie (WS), Lokias (WS).

MORWELL FALCONS: Escott 6 — Palermo 7, Tull 6, Bruns 8, Train 8 — Van Baar 8, O'Callaghan 7, M. Cassar 5 (66th), E. Cassar 5 (Sostak 53rd) — A. Cassar 7, Wilson 7 (DiGiulio 66th). **Coach:** Joe Seiberling.
WESTERN SUBURBS: Apostolides 7 — Beattie 7 (sent off 47th), Esposto 5, Dimovski 5, Lakkas 4 — McLuskey 4, Kakantonis 5 (Condi 64th), Stenson 6 (sent off 54th), Hamill 4 — Smallman 6, McGuinness 5 (sent off 47th). **Coach:** Jim Condi.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 1 (Cole 16th) FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. 0. **Crowd:** about 2,000. **Referee:** Stuart Mellings 7. **Cautions:** Vukjevic (J.U.S.T.).

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Trainees 7 — I. Roodhouse 7, Opsanis 7, Dobson 7, McLennan 7 — Petrov 8, Piculovski 6 — van Egmond 7, Cole 9, Lane 8, P. Koussas 6. **Coach:** Bill Murray.
FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.: Nikitovic 7 — Obak 7, Vukjevic 7, Karic 6, Lujic 7 — Petrovski 6, Belic 5, Tapai 7, Nedelkovski 5 (L. Barjakarevic H.T. 5) — Lazopoulos 6, Latif 6. **Coach:** Dragoslav Sekularac.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Ward penalty 26th, Markovac 44th) BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 0. **Crowd:** about 4,000. **Referee:** Bernie Upjohn 6. **Cautions:** Cullen, Sweeney (BJ), Biskic, Ward (MC).

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje 8 — Deankovic 8, McIntosh 8, Curcio 8, Harnett 7 — Biskic 8, Campbell 8, Bonacic 8, Gojevic 7 — Ward 7 (Christopoulos 51st), Markovac 8. **Coach:** Miron Bleiberg.
BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS: Markovac 5 — Palatsides 7, Brown 7, Peter Lewis 8, Campbell 7 — Cullen 6, Wade 7, Petersen 7, Zinn 6 (inj. Minichello 49th) — Sweeney 6, Incantulo 5. **Coach:** Len McKendry.

SECTION A

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
CROATIA	3	0	0	7	3	6
JUVENTUS	2	0	1	3	2	4
MORW. FALCONS	1	1	1	3	1	3
W. SUBURBS	1	0	2	1	5	3
GREEN GULLY	0	2	1	3	4	2
HELLAS	0	1	2	2	4	1

SECTION B

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
MAKEDONIA	2	1	0	4	1	5
GEORGE CROSS	2	0	1	5	1	4
HEIDELBERG	1	2	0	5	4	4
BOX HILL	1	0	2	1	3	2
CROYDON	1	0	2	2	6	2
J.U.S.T.	0	1	2	2	4	1

Nth Geelong v Hamlyn

Soccer followers holding on to the Bellarine Peninsula have had the opportunity to watch teams in the Geelong region battle it out in the prestigious "Geelong Advertiser" Cup.

The series is contested between local Victorian League and Provisional League clubs and a select side comprised of players from the Western Victorian Soccer Association.

The "Geelong Advertiser" sponsors the tournament with prizemoney of \$1000 to the winner, \$500 to the runner-up, \$300 to the third placed team and \$200 for fourth.

The series has been running for six years and its competitiveness is indicated by the fact that no team has won the cup twice.

All games are being played at North Geelong's superb new complex at Gibbons Road, Elcho Park, Lara, and large crowds have been in attendance at every game.

The first semi-final will be tonight (Wednesday) between North Geelong and Hamlyn

Rangers and the kick off is at 6 pm. The second semi final features Geelong v Bell Park and will be played this Friday at 6 pm. On Wednesday, February 19, the third and fourth play off takes place. The final is on Friday, February 21.

Preliminary round results, ladders:

GROUP A: North Geelong 2 Geelong United 1, Geelong 2 East Geelong 0, East Geelong 2 Geelong United 2, North Geelong 1 Geelong 0, Geelong United 2 East Geelong 1.

GROUP B: Hamlyn Rangers 2 WWSA 1, Bell Park 2 Corio 2, Corio 2 WWSA 2, Bell Park 0 Hamlyn Rangers 0, Hamlyn Rangers 2 Corio 2, Bell Park 3 WWSA 1.

GROUP A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
North Geelong	3	0	0	5	2	6
Geelong United	0	2	1	3	4	2
East Geelong	0	1	2	3	6	1

GROUP B	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bell Park	1	2	0	5	3	4
Hamlyn Rangers	1	2	0	6	3	4
Corio	1	2	0	6	3	4
WWSA	0	1	2	4	7	1

THE 1986 DOCKERTY CUP

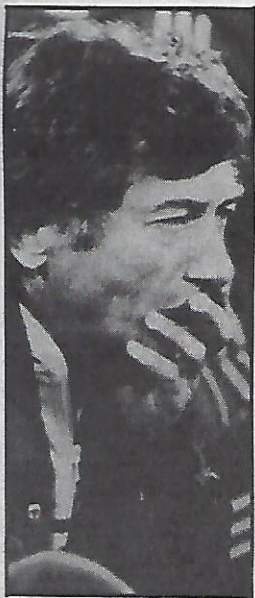
Proud to sponsor

**BUFFALO
SPORTS**

BUFFALO SPORTS

**OFFICIAL SPONSOR
TO V.S.F.**


Margaritis v. McKendry



• John Margaritis

One of the worst kept secrets in the soccer world is that there's little love lost between John Margaritis and Len McKendry so the Olympic Park clash between Hellas and Juventus in the Buffalo Cup on Saturday night should provide spine-tingling entertainment.

Hellas has virtually no chance of reaching the Buffalo Cup semi but that won't make any difference here. Reputations are at stake.

Margaritis was the man who guided Juventus to the national championship last year. McKendry led Hellas to the national championship in 1984. Now they've switched clubs.

Both are proud men. Both are successful coaches. Both are respected for their coaching ability.

Margaritis goes into the game with more problems than McKendry as evidenced by the resubstituted Hellas line-up which drew 1-1 with Green Gully last week. Doug Brown's appearance in midfield was the most curious of Margaritis's moves. Brown has a hell of a shot which he doesn't use often enough but is an out-and-out striker for mine. The use of Gary McDowall in a central striking role clearly was a stop-gap measure until Hellas can get another striker (it's chasing Stuart Stevenson). George Mihos didn't play well against Gully, although Bobby Russell has played sweeper before he doesn't look comfortable in that role and the playmaker's gap left by Oscar Celso's departure continues to widen. To add to Hellas's woes, midfielder Richard Miranda is out suspended after accruing three cautions.

I'm yet to be convinced of the merits of the Joe Sweeney-Fab Incantulupo pairing in Juve's attack. Time may prove me wrong but so far Incantulupo, who certainly can't play, doesn't appear mobile enough to play off Sweeney.

I'm going to stick out my thick neck and tip a Juventus victory though, provided that Charlie Egan is kept in check, a task far easier said than done.

Carter looks good, Stojkovic superb

**SM-Hellas 1
Green Gully 1**

Scorers: Blair own goal, 5th; McDowall 32nd.
Les Carter maintained a strong comeback for Green Gully following his long lay-off due to injury, and Garry McDowall looked good for Hellas in his new position as striker, scoring the equalising goal after Steve Blair had in-



• Gordon Flavell

**Man of
the match:
KEN MURPHY
(SM-Hellas)**

advertently headed across from Carter into his own net. Hellas fielded a resubstituted line-up, with Bobby Russell as sweeper, Angie Postecoglou at right back, George Mihos at left back and Doug Brown at left midfield.

Richard Miranda was shown his third caution of the series, and now is suspended from the next match, against Juventus on Saturday.

The only other caution was that of Green Gully's Steve McLelland.

Referee John Stojkovic's performance was a delight. He was in full control, yet unobtrusive and he used common sense where others in this competition have resorted to histrionics.

Carter stamped his class on the game early. A crossfield pass to left back Ken Drakeford was a gem, and the level of his overall play around the ground was of a very high standard.

McDowall won everything in the air against Joe Vizzini in the first half, until Vizzini swapped with Charlie Egan's marker, Steve McLelland.

With Hellas trailing by a goal, McDowall worked hard for the ball, won it and speared it into space for Ken Murphy

whose shot however, was across goal.

At the other end, Paul Lewis is streaked away through open territory, with Mihos storming after him. Lewis out inside Mihos, lobbed a shot past goalkeeper Peter Laumets, but hit the bottom of the far post.

Moments later, Fab Baricello — what a future this kid has — got to the edge of the area but shot too high. McDowall was getting more and more confident in his new striker's role, so much so that after winning a header in front of Stuart Cannell, he turned smoothly and chased the ball he had knocked on, leaving his opponent behind. Platini eat your heart out!

Meanwhile, everything was going wrong for new boy Mihos who had a nightmare at left back.

Hellas came close to equalising in the 18th minute when Egan slipped the ball to Carl Haillor, whose angry drive bounced off the crossbar.

But it was Green Gully's half. Lewis again got clear, this time beating Postecoglou and facing the goal, but shooting past the post.

Baricello was injured in the 26th minute and had to be replaced in midfield by Robert Krajacic who usually plays as sweeper.

And just before half time, Hellas was given a gift goal for the equaliser.

All McDowall had to do was to run onto a back-pass from Gordon Flavell and tap it past Len Denys.

Green Gully threatened to cancel out that goal only seconds after the interval when Mihos lost the ball to Lewis who relayed it to Jimmy Cumming for a dipping shot that beat Laumets but went just over the bar.

Cumming, who was getting busier all the time, had a close-range header saved by Laumets just before John Kanesoulis came on to replace Hellas midfielder Richard Miranda.

McDowall moved back into the midfield with Doug Brown and Kanesoulis joining Egan up front. Kanesoulis deserves praise for his sheer determination and fighting spirit.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

The first game at Olympic Park on Saturday may provide Footscray J.U.S.T. with its first win in the Buffalo Cup but not before it is forced to battle every inch of the way against a very competitive Box Hill outfit.

New J.U.S.T. coach Dragoslav Sekularac has said that imported striker Milos Stosic from Red Star Belgrade, will need two or three weeks of intensive training before pulling on a dark blue strip but the way the J.U.S.T. forward line has been functioning it wouldn't surprise to see Stosic lining up against Box Hill.

Makedonia should make sure of a semi-final berth by beating Crodon in the second game tonight (Wednesday). Steve Smith still may be sidelined by injury but the way Gary Cole and Sean Lane are combining, Makedonia won't lose much impetus.

Western Suburbs coach Jimmy Kondilis may have to pull on a strip to make up the numbers for the first game tonight when his side tackles Green Gully.

The green and whites will win this game easily. Suburbs will be without Bobby McGuinness, Jed Stenson and George Beattie, all sent off by referee Torben Sorenson last week and George Lekkas whose booking in the same match was his third of the competition.

A semi-final berth is at stake when Heidelberg and George Cross clash in the second game at Olympic Park on Friday. I'm tipping a George

The programme

WEDNESDAY, February 12: 1st GAME: Green Gully v Western Suburbs, 2nd GAME: Makedonia v Crodon City

FRIDAY, February 14: 1st GAME: Melbourne Croatia v Morwell Falcons, 2nd GAME: Heidelberg Alexander v Sunshine George Cross

SATURDAY, February 15: 1st GAME: Footscray JUST v Box Hill, 2nd GAME: Juventus v South Melbourne Hellas

WEDNESDAY, February 19: 1st GAME:

Footscray JUST v Crodon City, 2nd GAME: Juventus v Green Gully

FRIDAY, February 21: 1st GAME: Heidelberg Alexander v Box Hill, 2nd GAME: South Melbourne Hellas v Morwell Falcons

SATURDAY, February 22: 1st GAME: Melbourne Croatia v Western Suburbs, 2nd GAME: Makedonia v Sunshine George Cross

SATURDAY, March 1: Semi Finals.

SATURDAY, March 8: Final.

HAIL MCKINLAY!

**Box Hill 1
George Cross 0**

**Man of
the match:
JOHN MCKINLAY
(Box Hill)**

Scorers: Griffin 45th.
George Cross players were adamant after the match that Box Hill striker Phil Griffin had used his arm to knock the ball over the line for the winning goal in the 45th minute.

There was no controversy over the regularity with which John McKinlay used both arms to protect the Hillmen's lead. McKinlay was in sparkling form, much to the disgust of George Cross midfielder Jeff Faulkner who was denied a hat-trick by the agility and judgement of the Box Hill goalie.

From my vantage point, I thought that Griffin's goal was legitimate. Dave Azzopardi swung over a corner to the far post which was won in the air by Andy McMillan and Griffin appeared to use his knee to knock the ball home.

Noel Mitten had strained his groin at training on Sunday and was unavailable so John Gardner sprung a surprise by lining up. Even more surprising was the position in which he played himself, as Carl Glider's partner up front. Gardner dropped back into midfield later in the game and eventually took himself off, giving young Tony Jankovic a run. But by then it was clear that despite its pressure and the chances created, George Cross wasn't meant to score in this match.

Garry McPhee almost scored his second own goal in the Buffalo Cup when he mistimed a header in the 15th minute. To McPhee's relief, the ball rolled just wide of the near post.

Mark Lennon wriggled clear of a defender on the left of the Box Hill area in the 20th minute and chipped the ball to the far post but Glider headed over. Glider again headed a minute later, this time running onto Jeff Faulkner's free kick from the right.

Two minutes before half time, Box Hill made its most

dangerous strike of the first half. Barry Burton, a tireless worker, got free on the left. His cross was met by Griffin whose glancing header went wide of the far post. Azzopardi tried to cut the ball back but only succeeded in knocking it into the waiting arms of Lou Kastner.

A superb tackle by Shaun Parton in the 41st minute denied Griffin who was about to shoot after running onto Andy McMillan's low cross into the middle. Four minutes later, the Hillmen were celebrating their breakthrough and in the 49th minute Griffin used his body well to shrug off Parton to shoot wide of the near post from 15 metres.

Faulkner surged forward in the 54th minute. He played the ball to Lennon who touched it off for Glider but McKinlay parried superbly. Gardner in Don MacLaren to Faulkner in the 57th minute split the Hillmen's defence apart. Faulkner drove the ball across the face of goal and Glider slid in only to do the hard thing by missing from six metres.

Faulkner was put in possession by Lennon in the 62nd minute but McKinlay charged off his line and parried Faulkner's close range shot. Five minutes later, Faulkner turned Alan Roodhouse inside out only to have his shot blocked.

It was all George Cross but to no avail. The brave boys of Box Hill had been well and truly favored by fortune. They also ran their hearts out and their competitiveness was deserving of the highest praise.

McKinlay was in magic form, Dave Brooks and McMillan had fine games as did young midfielder Dean Hennessy.

CRAIG MACKENZIE

Cross victory even though Heidelberg hasn't lost a match in the competition.

Andy Higgins still hasn't settled into the Heidelberg line-up, coach Brian Garvey seems to still be searching for a central defensive pairing (Steve Marley and George Christopoulos have had turns at playing sweeper) and the Heidelberg midfield wasn't impressive against Crodon.

Okay, so George Cross lost to Box Hill but it dominated the game. Cross has yet to turn in a bad display in the Buffalo Cup and has been far more consistent than Heidelberg.

The first game on Friday is between Croatia and Morwell Falcons. Despite the plucky showing so far by the Latrobe Valley outfit, it's hard to go past Croatia which has the best record in the competition.

Three send-offs earn new name

**Morwell F. 3
West Subs 0**

Scorers: Bruns 1st, Wilson 23rd, O'Callaghan 69th.

The players have a new nickname for referee Torben Sorenson. It's S.O.S.

It means "Send-off Sorenson".

Reported to have been one of the toughest referees in Victorian last year, Sorenson sent off Bobby McGuinness, George Beattie and Jed Stenson on Wednesday night.

West, who had beaten Hellas 1-0 in their previous game, were down 0-1 after one minute and played the last 16 minutes with only eight men.

Sorenson argued that he had no choice but to send off McGuinness for foul and abusive language. McGuinness had directed such language at his team-mates.

In fact, Sorenson could have used discretion. He had the choice of warning McGuinness verbally, or even showing him the yellow card. The few spectators at the game weren't close enough to the touch-line to have been offended by whatever it was that McGuinness said. Anyway, worse language comes from the crowd... and the Press box.

We take no issue with him over Stenson's send-off, as he earlier cautioned Stenson, and the second offence was dangerous play.

But the circumstances around Beattie's send-off were such that they actually penalised Morwell Falcons. Anthony Cassar, playing well in attack, was dwelling on the ball, waiting for Tony van Baar to overlap into space on the right. When van Baar was clear, Cassar released his pass, and while he was doing so, he was fouled by Beattie. Morwell had the advantage, van Baar was clear, and a promising move was under way close to goal. Sorenson removed that advantage by blowing his whistle, bringing the ball back to Cassar and sending off Beattie, who earlier had been cautioned.

I don't know whether Sorenson was working to the set of tough directives issued by the referees' association at the start of the series. Whether he was or wasn't, the fact remains that spectators of the Buffalo Gold Cup have been paying to see displays of refereeing excesses rather than soccer games. If these directives must be adhered to, then a way must be found to make the refereeing subservient to the soccer rather than vice-versa. For example, if a yellow card has to be flashed, play advantage first and flash it after play has broken down.

Too many games are being played into boring processions of free kicks by the referees.

I repeat the point I made

**Man of
the match
EMIL BRUNS
(Morwell)**

earlier about discretion. It applies to almost every rule a referee is asked to arbitrate upon.

Western Suburbs coach Jim Condilis wasn't as reasonable as your scribe. In the heat of anger after the game, he said: "The VSF should wake up. I'm very upset about the referee's display. His attitude destroyed the game as a spectacle."

Morwell Falcons, who had come so close to beating Juventus in their previous match, took control of the game with a headed goal by big Emil Bruns in the first minute, and never looked back.

It is one of the mysteries of Victorian soccer that no NSL club has moved to sign Bruns. A powerful defender, unbreakable in the air and deadly in attack, he has all the qualities that would make him a front-liner in the big league.

Jim Train, who must be 35 if he's a day (I saw him play his first match for Slavia in 1970) has the same love of the game that he has displayed for so long. He was staunch in defence, and always willing to join the attack.

Also pleasing were the performances of Anthony Cassar and David Wilson who operated as twin strikers. They have taken a few games to find their feet in the senior team, but they fought like tigers and snapped like terriers against West's centre back Steve Dimovski and Andy Esposito who both had off days compared with their Trojan efforts against Hellas.

John O'Callaghan worked hard in the midfield — his fitness level is rising steadily — and I continue to be impressed by right back Dominic Palermo.

A word about David Smallman of Wests. He continued his creative play of front, and worked quite conscientiously in closing down opponents, even though it was a hopeless cause.

Wilson shot Morwell to a 2-0 lead from the edge of the box in the 23rd minute and after Wests goalkeeper Nick Apollodis had made good saves to stop shots by Anthony Cassar and Wilson, it was O'Callaghan who completed the scoring with a dashing drive into the far top corner.

McGuinness incidentally, was sent off for swearing during a match against Box Hill last year — and send-off which made him ineligible for the Rothmans Medal, although he polled the most votes.

LAURIE SCHWAB

Croatia v Makedonia

Melbourne Croatia will play Preston Makedonia in a friendly match this Sunday at the Croatian Sports Centre, Lot 2, Somers Street, North Sunshine. The game kicks off at 4pm.

At 2pm the youth teams of Croatia and Makedonia will clash. Croatia's juniors will play a series of matches starting at 10am. Full barbecue facilities will be in use throughout the day and all Croatia and Makedonia supporters are welcome.

MICHAEL KNOTT DIES

Mr Michael Knott, a patron of the Victorian Soccer Federation and chairman of its appeals board for 20 years, died last week.

The VSF extends its sympathy to his family.

RICOH

CAMERAS

Proud to
Sponsor

THE 1986 DOCKERTY CUP

Free, the Blacktown!

Big-spending Blacktown bowed out of the race for a quarter final spot in the 1986 NSW Ampol Cup with a shock 1-2 to Wollongong Macedonia in Wollongong last Saturday.

For Blacktown coach Casey de Bruin it was a sad homecoming. Blacktown's other Ampol Cup loss was to Fairy Meadow so the Demons may do a bit of soul-searching in coming weeks as they try to mould their new side together.

Croatia and APIA look safe bets for quarter-final berths while Canberra is an outside chance for the quarters after holding Marconi. That result was made more meritorious by Canberra having to play with 14 men after Phil Harkins was sent off in the 54th minute.

Newcastle Rosebud shocked Olympic with a 3-2 victory and the St George v Olympic clash this Saturday will be Olympic's last chance of reaching the quarters. Here are last week's games:

Wollongong Macedonia 2 Blacktown City 1

At Berkeley S/Ground
Crowd: 850
Scorers: King 5th, Saten 25th (WM), Denyer 35th (GC).
MAKEDONIA: Robinson 7, — Muhlebauer 7, Tasevski 8, Campbell 8, Wuntz 7, — Tasevski 7, Music 7, Saten 7, — King 6, Robinson 6, Kozovski 6.
BLACKTOWN: Curtis 7, Willis 7, Ainsworth 7, McLeod 5, Knight 5, Byrne 5 (Bourke 5th), Denyer 5, — Bradley 6, Carroll 5, Thornthwaite 7.

Wollongong Macedonia registered its first win in the Ampol Cup by defeating Blacktown City. It was a heart-warming win by the Wollongong side, following its 0-0 draw with Melita Eagles in the previous match.

Wollongong Macedonia raced to a two-goal lead early before conceding a late first half goal. Barney King was too good with a free kick to give Macedonia the lead but one really must blame defender Don Macleod for a mistake which led to the free kick.

Ron Saten made it 2-0 by jinking past a group of Blacktown players before slotting his shot past Curtis. Peter Denyer scored with a fine header close to half time but that was as much as Blacktown could offer on this black day for the club.

Wollongong City 0 Sydney Hakoah 1

At Berkeley Sports Ground.
Crowd: 850
Scorers: Farina 63rd.
WOLLONGONG CITY: Billington 7, — Green 7 (Godak 65th), Vilesttra 8, Dickson 8, Morlando 7, — Kotamandis 7, Coteley 7, Gerald 8, Murray 7, Brodnick 5, Batten 5.
HAKOAH: McPherson 7, — Hooker 7, Robertson 8, Gomez 8, Rodriguez 7 (De Marigny 41st, B), Paterson 6 (Kay 41st, B), Spanos 6, Souness 6, — Farina 7, Kasmira 5, Botolico 5.

Sydney Hakoah moved into the quarter-finals with this narrow win over Wollongong. Wolves' centreback John Vilesttra, the ex-youth international, had an exceptional game and was among his sides best players but an awful error midway through the second period by the youngster caused his team's downfall. Vilesttra challenged for the ball with another Wolves defender and it fell to Frank Farina, 40 metres from goal and unmarked. Billington was beaten and that was the ball game.

Ku-Ring-Gai 2 Manly Warringah 0

At Melita Stadium
Referee: G. Worne 6
Crowd: 800
Scorers: Bass 42nd, 60th.
KU-RING-GAI: Lacey 7, — Keven 7, Pepper 6, Watson 8, Ranieri 7, — Bennett 8, Bertram 7, Farrell 6, Liley 5, — Bass 5, Nile 7.
MANLY: Jones 6, — Dennis 6, Juergens 5, Dean 7, — Davison 5, Edwards 5 (Etherington 37th), Stewart 6, — Laughran 6, Abraham 5 (65th Cimarosti), Van Eymond.

Kuringai, at long last, managed to score in this competition. Craig Bass scored two but missed another three as did Mark Nile.

Manly's defence leaked like a sieve and Nile twice and Bass once had only the keeper to beat but missed during the first 40 minutes. Then, with three minutes gone in the second period, Nile managed to find Bass with a pass across the area but Manly's defence, quite confident that Bass would miss, stood still!

Bass made no mistake. Midway through the second half and with Manly's defence fiddling about near the sideline, Ranieri stole the ball and cut into the box. His chip found Bass who chested down before slotting the ball past Jones.

Melita Eagles 4 Fairy Meadow 0

At Melita Stadium.
Crowd: 800
Referee: R. Doonan 5.
Scorers: 33rd Dutton, 62 Sorbas, 67th, 72nd Farrugia.

This convincing win saw Melita jump into second spot on the ladder, one point away from qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Melita did not look good during the first period and struggled against spirited opposition. Had Jimmy Bell scored midway through the first half after the best move of the match it would have been just.

It was during the second period that Meadow collapsed. But it still looked capable of getting a draw with 27 minutes to go.

Then Derek Laing lobbed in a cross from just inside Meadow's half. Larry Berlingier failed to cover Warren Dolton who rose high to head past Dunlop.

From that point on there was only one team on the park.

Sparked by the fine form of Ray Farrugia, Melita Eagles moved ahead with purpose to score three goals in close succession. Dunlop foiled Dolton in the 57th, but could not stop Sorbas in the 62nd. Farrugia added two more to seal Meadow's fate.

Ku-Ring-Gai 1 Freshwater 1

At Croatian Sports Centre.
Referee: McConnell 8.
Scorers: Rimmer 7 (F), Friend 9, 73rd (K).
KURINGAI: Lesley 6 (Milankovic 41st, 7), — Keven 7, Bertram 7, Pepper 7, Ranieri 5 (58th Liley), — Berry 6, Sutherland 5, McKenna 6, — Farrell 6, Bass 6, Nile 6.
FRESHWATER: Petersen 67 (Drury 41st), — Soga 7 (65th Duvrey), Parfitt 6, Poulson 6, Friend 6, — Placer 7, MOLLONGONG: Taylor 6, Rimmer 6, — Sturgess 6, Sandner 6.

Due to the benevolence of Freshwater's defenders Kuringai took a point out of this match with only a few minutes to spare.

Branko Modronja was the star for Freshwater showing fine skills and crisp passing. His through ball for Gary Rimmer in the 16th was timed to perfection giving Rimmer an easy passage to goal.

Soon after Modronja robbed Ranieri then lobbed the keeper only to see the ball clear the crossbar.

Kuringai came back at Freshwater with venom but all its creativity went unscathed as Mark Nile and Craig Bass repeatedly missed chances. In the end it was left



NSW AMPOL CUP

By ALEX VESIC

Malta President to visit Melita

The president of the Republic of Malta, Agatha Barbara, is to visit Melita Eagles this weekend.

She is scheduled to arrive in Sydney this Friday for a state reception which will be given in her honor by NSW Premier Neville Wran.

There will be a Gala Day at Melita Stadium on Saturday. The Maltese President will be presenting the club with an anniversary cup, to celebrate 30 years of existence.

Melita also will welcome one of its own sons, Nick Bonello. He is well known in NSW soccer circles, being one of the better known referees in the 1960s and 1970s. He also is a former Melita secretary.

At present, Mr Bonello is the High Commissioner for Malta.

Agatha Barbara is a unique figure in Maltese political life. She was the first woman elected to Parliament and the first to become President.

to Friend, who challenged Kevern for the ball in the 73rd minute.

Friend managed to get to the ball before Kevern only to head it over the head of his own keeper for the equaliser.

In the end Nile broke through one more time to find Bass, but Bass was not firing, missing an easy opening.

Croatia 4 Manly 2

At Croatian Sports Centre.
Referee: Mary Lou 8.
Scorers: Jurin penalty 12th, Caleta 17th, Ozdakov 60th, Dragicevic 72nd (C), Van Eymond 4th, Stuart 65th (M).
CROATIA: Woodhouse 6, — Basic 6, M. Kovacic 8, Rezo 7, Ugarkovic 7, — Clinch 8, Kero 6, Ozdakov 8, — Jurin 7, Caleta 7, Dragicevic 7.
MANLY: Jones 6, — Dennis 6, Juergens 6, A. Dean 5, S. Dick 5, — Marshall 6, Edwards 5, Abraham 7 (Cimarosti 70th), — Stuart 8, Davidson 6 (Laughran 55th), Van Eymond.

Croatia fell back to an early goal by Van Eymond following a fine through ball by Davidson but recovered to subdue its seaside opponent comfortably.

Alan Dean brought down Zeljko Jurin in the 12th giving Jurin an easy conversion from the penalty spot to make it 1-1.

Five minutes later, Jurin stole the ball from Stuart Dick then cut it back for Caleta to score 2-1. Zarko Ozdakov almost scored with a superb free kick in the 24th then Van Eymond missed an opening at the other end. Alan Dean's header went wide to end proceedings in the first period.

Midway through the second half, Ozdakov went on a jinky run, beating defenders at will, before making it 3-1.

Then came a lovely volley by Rob Stuart and the contest was on again. However, Emil Dragicevic made sure of a Croatia win with a fine goal eight minutes from time. Jurin missed an opening soon after then Stuart skimmed the ball at the other end with Croatia collecting the points.

Inter Monaro 0 Canberra City 0

INTER MONARO: Pinto 7, — Tullawa 8, Titlas 7, Budini 7, Williams 7, — A. Ambrosino 6, C. Ambrosino 7 (Arbano), Djordjevi, — Walsh 5 (Valestro), Winn 7, Giampaolo 6.

CANBERRA CITY: Economopoulos 8, — Mazis 7, Watkins 7, Bourke 8, Bryant 8, — Byrne 8, Serrani 7, Mihailidis 6, — Lamond 6, Gibson 5, Searle 5.

Inter Monaro came closest to scoring when Baz Giampaolo was brought down in the 73rd minute by Peter Mazis. Angelo Ambrosino took the spot kick but George Economopoulos made what turned out to be the best save of the Ampol Cup to date.

Giampaolo came back to life following Inter's miss but a little too late for his team to do much more than take a point.

Manis Lamond was a solitary figure for Canberra up front while Bryant and Bourke shone in defence.

Inter Monaro 4 Penrith City 1

At Marconi Stadium.
Crowd: 1,230.

Referee: P. Smith 7.

Scorers: Waterspoon 13th, 43rd, 75th, Giampaolo 35th (M), Easthorpe 70th.

INTER MONARO: Antonopoulos 7 (Pinto 41st, 7), — Tullawa 6 (A. Ambrosino 50th, 7), — Dachs 6 (Walsh 41st, 6), — Budini 8, Titlas 7, — C. Ambrosino 7, Carbone 6, Waterspoon 5, — Giampaolo 7, Winn 5, D'Adario 5.

PENRITH CITY: Hayes 6, — Montgomery 5, Cross 6, Brown 7, Kerrie 5, — C. Thompson 6 (Hart 35th, 5), Toohy 7, S. Thompson 5, — I. Hunter 5 (Jones 60th), Easthorpe 7, Shute 7.

Ian Waterspoon, the man who was scoring goals for Penrith last year, came back to face his old side and I am sure Penrith wished he hadn't. Waterspoon scored three goals cementing Penrith's bottom position in Group C.

In the process, Waterspoon lost none of his bite, tackling his ex-team mates as if his future in soccer depended upon it.

Despite some poor defensive play by Inter early, Penrith had no-one to convert some easy opportunities and Ian Hunter was totally out of form. Hard as Hunter tried, the ball just would not run for him.

After Waterspoon put Inter into the lead in the 13th minute with a fine header from a cross by Carlos Ambrosino, and a miss by Giampaolo a few minutes later, it was time for Penrith to strike.

David Shute ran through to face Antonopoulos, ran

This week's games:

WEDNESDAY

(Tonight)
At Adamstown Oval: Newcastle Rosebud v Uruguay at 8 pm.

FRIDAY

At St George Stadium: Hakoah v Blacktown at 7.30 pm, followed by Melita Eagles v Wollongong City.
At Marconi Stadium: Newcastle Rosebud v Canterbury at 7.30 pm, followed by Marconi v Inter Monaro.

SATURDAY

At Melita Stadium: Polonia v Uruguay at 7.30 pm, followed by Melita Eagles v Wollongong City.
At St George Stadium: Canberra v Avala at 7.30 pm, followed by Olympic v St George.

SUNDAY

At Towradgi Park: Sutherland v Ku-Ring-Gai at 3.30 pm, followed by Wollongong Macedonia v Fairy Meadow.
At Croatian Sports Centre: Freshwater v Manly at 3.30 pm, followed by Sydney Croatia v APIA.

● Here are the group standings:

GROUP A									
	W	D	L	F	A	P			
Hakoah	3	1	0	6	1	7			
Melita Eagles	1	2	1	4	1	4			
Well. City	1	2	1	3	2	4			
Blackin. City	1	1	2	3	4	3			
Well. Mak.	1	1	2	4	7	3			
Fairy Meadow	1	1	2	2	7	3			
GROUP B									
	W	D	L	F	A	P			
Croatia	3	1	0	10	3	7			
APIA	3	1	0	9	2	7			
Sutherland	2	1	1	9	5	5			
Ku-Ring-Gai	1	2	1	3	3	4			
Freshwater	0	1	3	2	13	1			
Manly	0	0	4	2	9	0			
GROUP C									
	W	D	L	F	A	P			
Inter Monaro	3	1	0	12	2	7			
Marconi	3	1	0	9	1	7			
Canberra City	1	3	0	3	2	5			
Avala	1	1	2	4	10	3			
Ilinden	0	2	2	5	10	2			
Penrith City	0	0	4	2	10	0			
GROUP D									
	W	D	L	F	A	P			
St George	2	1	1	10	6	5			
Olympic	2	1	1	10	7	5			
Newcastle	2	1	0	8	5	5			
Canterbury	2	0	2	3	5	4			
Polonia	1	1	2	8	12	7			
Uruguay	0	0	3	3	7	0			

around the keeper then slotted his pass for Hunter who missed an open goal from only a few metres away!

Two minutes before half time, Carlos Ambrosio was brought down inside the penalty area and Giampaolo, cool as you like, slotted his shot over the wall and past Hayes to make it 2-0.

Giampaolo was on the scene again soon after the restart to push a lovely through ball for Waterspoon who made it 3-0 with a cracking right footer.

Hunter and Easthorpe had another attempt in the 59th but with little luck then Penrith finally scored. A cross by Hutton was headed by Jones to Easthorpe who managed to shove the ball past the keeper.

Waterspoon added another goal, the goalkeeper failed to hold the ball from a blistering Giampaolo free kick.

Marconi 0 Canberra City 0

At Marconi Stadium.
Crowd: 1238.

Referee: G. Power 9.

MARCONI: James 7, — Carter 7, Henderson 8, Wheatley 7, Rizzotto 7, — Mason 7, Tredinnick 5, Sterney 5, — Lowe 6, Driene 5 (Calderan 50th), Litzate 5.

CANBERRA CITY: Economopoulos 8, — Nelson 6 (Byrne 65th), Burke 8, Harkins 8 (sent off 50th), Mazis 6, — Mihailidis 7, Serrani 8, Brockbank 7, Bryant 8, — Searle 5 (Alexakis 54th), Lamond 7.

This was war!

One player was sent off and many booked as referee Gary Power had his hands full trying to keep control.

In the circumstances, the referee did very well indeed.

Shirt pulling, some terrible tackles, and punches provided spills and thrills.

Peter Tredinnick and Jim Harkins clashed 100 times in the second half. Power, who had earlier booked Harkins, flashed the red card and Harkins was on his way. Tredinnick was booked.

Despite the loss of its star defender Canberra never looked in trouble. In fact the visitors could have won on his way. Tredinnick was booked.

Manis Lamond had a sitter in the fifth but a great diving save by James kept Marconi in the match. The Marconi keeper missed one from a corner kick soon after but three Canberra players muffed their chances at the far post.

A few minutes into the second half Searle and Lamond had only Wheatley to beat, but for some reason Searle simply gave the ball away for Wheatley to clear.

Then, with seconds remaining, Tony Alexakis broke through then cut his pass back for an unmarked Tom Serrani, 16 metres from goal. The ex-Marconi player settled before slotting his shot wide of both James and the upright.

Lee Sterrey in the 28th and Peter Tredinnick in the 76th had chances with Sterrey missing and Tredinnick cutting his cross back after rounding the keeper, but Mazis managed to clear off the line.

Rockdale Ilinden 2 Avala 2

At Marconi Stadium.
Crowd: 672.

Referee: McDonnell 8.

Scorers: D. Wilson 5th, J. Wilson 64th (RI), Jeffery 20th, 67th.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN: Dart 8, — J. Wilson 7, Pivlovski 7 (sent off 57th), Nikolovski 6, Milas 7, — D. Wilson 7, Groom 6 (78th Dalkakis), Triantafyllou 7 (67th Youseph), — Brown 7, Mickovski 6, Jones 7.

AVALA: Thurlow 7, — Vrankovic 7 (40th Jordan 6th), Pena 6 (inj 63rd Radenkovic), Anderson 6, Divani 6, — Atlagic 7, Nedic 6, Brunetta 7, — Kodor 7, Jeffery 8, Bryant 5.

Billy Pivlovski was one of three players sent off last week and his departure cost Ilinden a win against Avala.

Pivlovski was sent off after his second card of the game for persistent hard tackling. But with Jeff Wilson giving his side a 2-1 lead at the 64th minute mark it looked as if Ilinden was going to take the points.

However, Ben Divani sent in a perfect through ball for Glen Jeffery to equalise. Earlier on, Darren Wilson

gave Ilinden the lead after a fine cross from Ross Brown, but Avala came back through Jeffery midway through the first half. Divani beat the offside trap then squared his pass to Jeffery who made no mistake.

Sydney Olympic 2 Newcastle R'buds 3

At St George Stadium.
Crowd: 720.
Scorers: Todd 28th, Naumov 48th, 73rd (N) Johnston 54th, Soper Pan 63rd.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 7, — Lambropoulos 8, Dakos 8, Stankovic 7, Hantisi 6, — Phillips 7, Estavillo 8, Kaskopoulos 7, Johnston 6, — Soper 7, Zvez 5 (Burke 60th).

NEWCASTLE: Gosling 8, — Milosovic 7, Meier 7, Banon 7, Garland 7, — Naumov 8, Sankalski 7, Owens 7, — Roddell 5, Todd 6 (Ingham), Rowney.

Clint Gosling was the toast of Newcastle last Friday as the Novocastrians brushed past Sydney Olympic at St George Stadium. He saved a penalty from Gary Phillips midway through the second half with Newcastle leading 2-1 to pave the way for this memorable win.

Derek Todd was on target after 28 minutes to give Newcastle its lead. Bobby Naumov, an ex-Olympic player, made it 2-0 soon after half time and the large Greek following at St George Stadium was stunned.

In the 54th minute Stuart Johnston made it 2-1 then came the penalty miss before yet another penalty saw Marshall Soper beat Gosling to even the score. But Naumov chimed in with seven minutes left to sink Olympic.

As for Olympic, it was Vicente Estavillo, who has returned to the fold, who shone with his dazzling skills as Tony Dakos who stood tall in an otherwise very shaky backline. Estavillo appears to have overcome the money difficulties he had the previous week with his new club and will stay with Olympic, much to the delight of coach Manfred Schaefer.

St George 6 Polonia 2

At St George Stadium.
Scorers: Petkovski 12th, 75th, Caban 7th, Grbevski 14th, Cotton 68th, Belusic 70th (SG), Drys Pan 44th, Pop 60th (P).

ST GEORGE: Greedy 7, — Skeen 7, J. O'Shea 7, Kneke 7, R. O'Shea 6 (Lacey 41st), — Ricoy 7, Orasag 8, Petkovski 8, — Grbevski 6, Cotton 7, (Belusic 61st), Caban 7 (Moffitt 65th).

POLONIA: Anderson 6, — Chou 5, Colluso 5, Robertson 5, Gaskie 6, — Mahamah 6, Drys 8, Sobczyk 7, — Pop 6, Dru 5, Parker 5.

Saints' lethargic form in their first three Ampol Cup matches was missing as they trounced Polonia to take the lead in their qualifying group. Saints stormed Polonia's goal in the opening 15 minutes, scoring three times, and never looked back.

The return of Henek Sobczyk did little to enhance Polonia's chances as its backline crumbled under pressure.

Caban, Petkovski and Grbevski scored in the space of the opening 14 minutes to dispel any doubts about Saints' intentions in this competition.

Roy Cotton converted a penalty to make it 4-0 at half time then Polonia made a spirited comeback to score through Jurek Drys (penalty) and Andrej Pop, before Belusic and Petkovski added further goals to provide Saints with an impressive scoreline.

Canterbury 2 Uruguay 1

At Marconi Stadium.
Referee: Pollard 7.
Scorers: Kalogeras 3rd, Hantisi 78th (C), Rodas 49th (C).

CANTERBURY: Barker 9, — Karaspiros 6, Mikkolopoulos 6, Markoski 6 (Mikolovic 61st), Kirwan 6, — Radman 8, Anagnostopoulos 7, Antonopoulos 6 (Hantisi 40th — 8), Kalogeras 5, — Farnatita 7, Philipou 5.

URUGUAY: ROSANO 6 (41st Tabernaberi 5), — O'Donnell 7, Hantisi 7, Planinic 7, Pirtz 7, — Langan

By PETER DESIRA

Attendances at the Buffalo Gold Cup are up on last year's, according to Lewis Stafrace, co-ordinator between the Victorian Soccer Federation and competition sponsor Buffalo Sports.

That is a significant statement for a competition which only one club, Melbourne Croatia, has determined as important enough to genuinely want to win.

Most other clubs, especially Box Hill and Croydon declared from the start they would treat it as no more than pre-season training.

In the case of Victorian giant South Melbourne Hellas, coach John Margaritis said at the start he "would like to win it" but was more concerned with using the cup to knit his team together.

The same applies for Green Gully which is using it as a wedding-out vehicle to replace half the team it chose to release during the close season.

While the competition is not treated seriously, soccer in general is expected the sponsor to continue pouring the money in while getting little in return. More important, the game is fleecing spectators of \$6 to watch what at times has been mundane soccer and an excessive amount of bookings as a result of the Referees' Association's new edict.

Victoria remains the top-drawing State spectator-wise, but while we dip our hats to the faithful, isn't it time we gave them some value for money and turned the night series into a competition that means something. . . . AND RESOLVE THE NATIONAL LEAGUE PROBLEMS AT THE SAME TIME?

VSF board of management member Jack Reilly has by his mind come up with the most fascinating — AND SIMPLE — solution to the growing dispute of how to go about reducing the National League from 24 to 14 teams.

Use night series as step to NSL: Reilly



● Jack Reilly

Instead of establishing a criteria which would turn the NSL into the "Best-supported-clubs" league, why not make it a true national competition by making the clubs earn their places?

The Jack Reilly plan is simple. Turn the night series in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia into the competition that determines the clubs that compete in the National League each year.

To illustrate the simplicity of the formal, let's take Victoria as an example and examine the advantages and the possible disadvantages that may crop up.

The eight present Melbourne NSL clubs and the top four State League clubs contest the initial competition. The top four in the night series (the Buffalo Gold Cup) qualify to play in the NSL for the year.

The other eight clubs drop back into the State League and compete with the remaining clubs not just for the State League championship but the top eight spots in the State League for that year because that would give them a chance to play for a spot in the National League the following year.

The proposal would turn the now meaningless State League into a glamor competition with a goal at which to aim. It also would eliminate the normal loss of interest midway through the season by a half dozen clubs that have neither the State League championship to aim for now are in danger of relegation.

The night series immediately would become a real competition with clubs having to do the spadework, recruiting-wise, before the competition starts.

There would be none of the present wheeling and dealing with the competition is in progress. The four teams that qualify for the National League (which would be the semi-finalists of the night series) would then face the NSL competition with heads high instead of hiding behind the present shameful criteria.

Now it establishes a criteria to reduce the league and in not so many words is telling 10 clubs "Thank you for clearing our financial worries but you can now buzz off — we no longer need you."

NSL chairman Sam Papasavas, when told of the Reilly plan, described it as "pie in the sky". "In such a league you could not be guaranteed of getting the best clubs, and with the possibility of clubs changing every year it would be impossible to attract a sponsor willing to back the National League," he said.

Somewhere in there I don't understand his meaning of "best clubs". Aren't the best clubs supposed to be the ones that perform on the field and get results? Or don't results

count anywhere when it comes to determining the best teams in the country?

And I doubt if the sponsorship argument would stand. I'm sure that a vibrant competition between the top clubs, performance wise, would attract supporters.

Let's face it, the odds would still favor the clubs that command the biggest support and could afford to buy the best players to get into such a competition.

NSL executive Stefan Kamaz brought up another interesting point when told of the Reilly proposal. "There wouldn't be enough time to draw up fixtures between the end of the night series and the start of such a National League," he said.

But Reilly already had thought of that argument. "Play the Buffalo Cup between February and March, then have a three week break which would give the NSL time to establish its program and sort out its fixtures for the coming season," Reilly said.

The three-week break could be taken up by an overseas team playing either the States or our national team.

I am not as well versed on how NSW, South Australia and Queensland organise their pre-season night series, but I do know that all of them carry out such competitions and with a little bit of effort they could all be dovetailed to suit the qualifying criteria and finish at the same time.

I can't see any drawbacks from turning three (at present) meaningless competitions (the night series, the State League and the NSL) into competitions where every result counts.

It's been proved before that the matches that bring out the best crowds are the ones which have something hanging on the result.

I doubt if the administrators who will meet in Melbourne on Friday will consider such a proposal seriously.

But then commonsense has never been our administrators' forte over the past few years and inevitably we are going to end up with a decision that is going to cause controversy no matter what it is.

And the game of soccer we love is going to lose the little bit of credibility we gained with the Socceroos' fine performances in the World Cup qualifiers.

14-team NSL to get the OK

Friday meeting to break down NSW's opposition but more strife ahead over ASF debts



● Arok makes his report

ASF president Sir Arthur George and NSL chairman Sam Papasavas confidently predict that a meeting in Melbourne on Friday will give the go-ahead for a 14-team National League in 1987.

It all depends on the NSW Federation of Soccer Clubs seeing the merits of a new, compromise plan against which its delegates voted at the weekend.

If NSW maintains its opposition, NSL clubs immediately would arm themselves for revolution, despite grim warnings from Sir Arthur, who warns of "sanctions" against possible rebels.

Some clubs would move to form a new national league administered by a sympathetic State federation which presumably would invite clubs from all over Australia to compete in it.

Others may opt to return to State Leagues.

Meanwhile, the Australian Soccer Federation finds itself about \$300,000 in debt because of the failure of ASF Marketing Ltd, the company that had the rights to run international matches here.

The ASF's debt represents money it had expected to get from ASF Marketing Ltd. Yet Sir Arthur George proposed at the ASF meeting in Sydney last Friday and Saturday that the ASF should continue to deal with ASF Marketing Ltd, so that the latter could pay off debts of more than \$500,000 incurred during international tournaments.

Sir Arthur spoke of the ASF's moral obligation to make sure that creditors are paid.

He suggested that if ASF Marketing were given TV and advertising rights, it may be able to attract sufficient investment to pay off the creditors.

The NSL however, will push strongly for the ASF

By LAURIE SCHWAB

to run its own international matches and its own marketing programme.

The NSL is adamant it will no longer allow its competition to be disrupted for the sake of private promoters.

Many NSL officials are perplexed over the opposition of NSW Federation president John Constantine to the 14-team plan at the ASF meeting at the weekend.

They were asking why he voted against the proposal, when he had indicated his support at meetings late last year. Constantine says he originally supported the plan only "in principle".

The NSL was ready, late last year, to proceed with a 14-team league in 1986 but agreed to wait until 1987 to make the transition easier. By so doing, the NSL believed it had Constantine's support.

But at the time, the NSW State League clubs had not had their way.

Once they had studied the NSL proposals, the NSW clubs decided that they wanted to safeguard their access to the new NSL through promotion.

It was this issue that was central to the tied vote last Saturday.

Victoria, South Australia, the NSL and the ACT supported the 14-team plan, while NSW, Northern NSW, Queensland and Western Australia voted against it.

What was voted against, was actually a compromise proposal intended to soften NSW's opposition.

Under the compromise:

● two clubs rather than one, would be promoted and relegated each year;

● the promoted clubs would be determined by a play-off between the NSW, ACT and Northern NSW State League champions, and another between the Victorian, South Australian and Queensland champions;

● in the criteria to be applied for membership of the 14-team league, the value of crowd support would be reduced from 25 per cent to 15 per cent of the 100-point total, with past performance being increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent and administrative and financial ability from 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

The vote on the compromise was split 25-26, because Tasmania's Vic Tuting abstained from voting. NSW and Victoria have 14 votes each, with the other States and the NSW holding four each.

It is because no decision was reached, that the ASF sub-committee was formed to again consider the matter at a meeting at Melbourne's Airport Hotel on Friday.

The sub-committee comprises: Sam Papasavas, Michael Weinstein (Vic), John Constantine, Jim Karapetis (SA), Roger Grylls (ACT), David Williams (Nth NSW), Ian Brussaco (Qld) and Joe Lacarenza (WA). Meanwhile, the ASF delayed the reappointment of Frank Arok as national coach, partly because of its financial problems.

The ASF was reluctant to commit itself to Arok's salary of between \$25,000 and \$30,000 a year (part-time) while it does not have the money to provide the Socceroos with international matches.

There is no doubt, however, that the ASF wants Arok to continue.

Arok, in a report to Saturday's meeting, called for a programme of eight international matches a year, adequate training camps and a Socceroo tour of



● From left: NSL chairman Sam Papasavas; Les Scheinflug who is to replace Jim Shoulder as national youth coach; VSF chairman Michael Weinstein whose compromise proposal resulted in a tied vote on Saturday and ASF president Sir Arthur George.



● NSW Federation president John Constantine — some NSL officials see his opposition to the 14-team plan as a turn-around.

Europe every two years, and suggested that Les Scheinflug of Marconi should replace Jim Shoulder as coach of the national youth team.

Shoulder was national youth coach for the 1981 and 1983 World Youth Championships.

Arok no doubt is unhappy with the ASF referring these Socceroo matches to its World Cup committee which doesn't meet for at least a month. He had spoken confidently in an interview with Hungarian paper "Nepsport", that the ASF already had accepted his proposals.

Time is running short, especially for the national youth team which will play qualifying matches later this year. To do so, the team needs money and coaching guidance.

But back to the National League and its problems with NSW.

Another compromise expected to be put to the sub-committee meeting on Friday goes like this:

Teams from Northern NSW and the ACT that want to be in the running for promotion to the NSL should join the NSW State League, along with the NSW-based NSL clubs discarded by the NSL to reduce the NSL to 14 clubs, and the winners of the NSW State League should then be promoted.

This would eliminate the need for play-offs between State champions for one of the promotion berths. The other, presumably, still would be decided by play-offs between Queensland, SA and Victorian clubs.

Sir Arthur defended NSW's attitude.

"Sydney is the capital of soccer in this country and so NSW has the right to protect its access to the NSL," Sir Arthur said.

About the ASF's debts, he said it was not uncommon for sporting bodies to have financial problems, and that the ASF would pull through. In regards to a sum of about \$100,000 owed by the ASF to Sir Arthur's company, ATC Holdings, he said he had been lending the ASF money for years.

NTH GEELONG S/C
2nd Division Victorian League

Require:-

EXPERIENCED STRIKERS and MIDFIELDERS

Excellent money for the right players

Contact:- Con (03) 369 5481
Steve (052) 78 6702

DOVETON SOCCER CLUB
1ST DIVISION VICTORIAN LEAGUE

PLAYERS WANTED
for Seniors + Reserves

Training has now commenced at Waratah Reserve, Doveton.

— Tuesday's + Thursday's at 6.30pm.

Contact — Jim McLean
(03) 791 5120

VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION
Presents

PRELIMINARY (Level 2 Award) 1986 COACHING COURSE

To be conducted by TIM WHITE — Victorian Director of Coaching

AT DENDY PARK, DENDY ST, BRIGHTON
February 15th & 16th
February 22nd & 23rd
March 1st & 2nd

All Enquiries to Coaching Course Secretary,
73 YUILLE ST, FRANKSTON 3199
Ph 781 1796 AH

NTH MELBOURNE UTD SOCCER CLUB
(2nd Division Amateur League)

REQUIRE . . .

SENIOR COACH
FOR 1986 SEASON
★ Playing or Non Playing

Contact: MR J. MORGAN
Phone: 398 5818

PLAYERS WANTED

PLAYERS in all age groups 9-18 yrs for Green Gully Ajax, 1986 season.

COACHES also required in various age groups. 9-15 yrs honorary club position only. 16-18 yrs remuneration given.

Contact: M. CILIA.....366 8887
J. BORG.....366 4003
Club Rooms.....366 6697

Prima Office Furniture

Proud to be Juventus' Major sponsor



Choose adjustable furniture from the exciting Prima range. An ergonomically designed Prima chair allows seat and backrest tilt as well as height adjustment. The Primatic ergonomic desk has a speedy pneumatic adjustment, from 630 to 730mm in height. All adjustments can be made from a seated position. It follows that if individuals can adjust their chairs and desks to give greater comfort, they will become less tired. And, most importantly, their productivity will increase.

If you replace your conventional furniture with the Prima ergonomically designed range, you'll save dollars in the long run.

Prima ergonomic

Prima Office Furniture Pty Ltd
31-49 Queensbridge St. Sth Melbourne
Telephone: 614 4070. Telex: 36076

FORZA JUVE!

ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΤΩΝ ΟΜΑΔΩΝ ΜΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΕΝΑΛΤΥ

by
Manos
Milios



ΑΠΟΛΥΤΗ ΣΠΙΤΥΧΙΑ ΣΗΜΕΙΩΣΕ Η ΒΡΑΔΥΑ ΤΟΥ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΚΥΠΕΛΛΟΥ ΣΤΟ ΣΑΝ ΡΕΜΟ

Στο Χάλ Σαν Ρέμο έγινε το περασμένο Σάββατο το βράδι ο χορός του Ελληνικού Κυπέλλου 1985 κατά την διάρκεια του οποίου δόθηκαν στους παίκτες των ομάδων οι οποίοι διέπρεψαν και τα άνωμαυστικά έκαβαλα εν μέρους της επιτροπής ή όποια για μία ακόμη φορά ανταπεξήλθε στο όχι και εύκολο έργο της.

Αξιοσημείωτη ήταν η παρουσία των φιλάθλων και παραγόντων στον χορό και γενικά αυτόν που τίμησαν την προσπάθεια των ανθρώπων της επιτροπής.

Ανέμεσα στους καλύτερους ήταν και ο πανταχού παρών γραμματέας του VSF κ. G. MALLAOS.

Εκ μέρους της επιτροπής στην όποια ή στήλη έθεσθαι συγχαρητήρια σχετικά με την διοργάνωση του Έλληνικού Κυπέλλου, βραβεύθηκαν οι εξής παίκτες:

ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥ (Ηρακλής) Πρώτος σκόρερ της διοργάνωσης.

ΦΑΙΛΗΝΗΣ (Ηρακλής) Καλύτερος παίκτης.

ΠΑΠΑΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ (Καίφτον Χίλ) Καλύτερος παίκτης κάτω από 18 έτών.

Εδώ θα σημειώσουμε ότι ο Παπαγεωργίου διεκδίκησε και το κύπελλο του καλύτερου παίκτη πάνω από 18 έτών.

Τέλος η ομάδα του ΤΡΑΠΑΛΚΟΝ κέρδισε το κύπελλο ήθους.

Ο τυχερός αριθμός που κερδίζει ένα τα ελπίδα αεροπορική στην Ελλάδα(προσφορά της Όλυμπιακής)είναι: 09878 και ό ένοδι αφερμένος μπορεί να έλθει σ'επαφή με τον γραμματέα της επιτροπής κ.Ρίθ.

BUFFALO GOLD CUP

Απόψε,αύριο και το Σάββατο συνεχίζονται οι προκριματικές συναντήσεις του Κυπέλλου Ηπάρχαλο.

Συγκεκριμένα οι αγώνες έχουν ως εξής:

Τετάρτη 12/2 Γκρ. Γκόλλυ - Πανελλήνιος

Παρ. 14/2 Πρέστον - Κρόντον

Μέγας - Τζ.Κρόβ

Σαβ. 15/2 Τζαστ - Μποξ Χίλ

Γιουβέντους - Βάλλας

Οι πρώτες συναντήσεις αρχίζουν στις 7.15 μ.μ. άκριβώς.

ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΔΙΑΤΙΤΣΙΑΣ

Άρχισαν τα μαθήματα διατιτσίας από τον κ.Αποστόλου και όσοι νέοι διατιτ-

τές ενδιαφέρονται να τα παρακολούθησουν μπορούν να τηλεφωνήσουν στο 3010 286.

ΠΑΝΗΤΥΡΙ ΣΤΟ ΟΚΛΗ

Την Κυριακή 16/2 στο γηπέδο του το Όκλη διοργανώνει πανηγύρι με την συμμετοχή πολλών καλλιτεχνών.

Επίσης θα γίνει ποδοσφαιρικός αγώνας της γηπεδοφύλου με το Σάουθ Σπρινκβέλη.

ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗ

Εκτακτη γενική συνέλευση έχει το Όκλη την Κυριακή 23/2 και ώρα 11.00 π.μ. στη λέσχη του γηπέδου.

ΑΧΙΛΛΕΑΣ

Ο Αχιλλέας άρχισε προπονήσεις υπό την επίβλεψη του Ηρ.Χατζητίδη.

Όλοι οι παίκτες είναι εύπροδοτικοί.Οι ενδιαφερόμενοι να τηλεφωνήσουν στον αριθμό 292186 στον κ.Χατζησταύρου.

ΝΟΚΟΥΕΡΤΥ ΚΑΠ

Το Σάββατο 15/2 θα γίνει ο πρώτος γύρος για το Νόκγουερτ Καπ.

Οι έλληνικής μας ομάδες έχουν τους εξής αντιπάλους:

Μόρνινγκτον - ΚΑΡΑΠΙΝΤΑ

ΚΑΙΦΤΟΝ ΧΙΛ - Περνάν Σίτν

ΑΟΕΑ - ΤΡΑΠΑΛΚΟΝ

Ν.ΕΛΛΑΣ - Αλτόν Γκίφτ

Μουρμπίν - ΠΕΑΟΙΔΑΣ

ΜΟΡΦΤΙΑΛΛΟΚ - Ντάντεντονγκ Σίτν

ΤΟ ΚΑΙΦΤΟΝ ΧΙΛ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΕΙ

Το Καίφτον Χίλ ευχαριστεί τους φίλους του και δωρητές οι οποίοι είναι οι εξής Νίκος Γιαννελόπουλος (ZEBRA PANELS)πού χάρισε 12 μπάλλες.

Τοι Πενθύνος (ARION RECEPTION)έδωσε 12 μπάλλες.

Βαγγέλης Διδασκάλου (CAPITAL INSURANCE) δώρισε μία ποδοσφαιρική στολή.

ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ

Ο Ηρακλής κατήγγινε τα "σάουθ φη" για το 1986.

Ο μέσος Γουίλσον δεν μπόρεσε ακόμη να βρει με το Δ.Σ και τον δόθηκε η άδεια να ντυθεί για άλλη ομάδα.

ΕΚΤΑΚΤΗ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗ

Στις 23/2 και ώρα 10.00 π.μ. στη λέσχη του γηπέδου του ο Ηρακλής έχει έκτακτη γενική συνέλευση.

Εν παρούσας όλων είναι άπαιστητη.

ΖΗΤΟΥΝΤΑΙ ΠΡΟΠΟΝΗΤΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΕΧΝΙΟΠΕ

Προπονητές για τις ομάδες των Τεχνιόπερς ζητούν οι ομάδες Δόξα,Ηρακλής,Καίφτον και Άσκοτβέλη.

Για την Δόξα οι ενδιαφερόμενοι να τηλεφωνήσουν στον κ.Αμανατίδη στο 682068.

Για τον Ηρακλή να έλθουν σ'επαφή με τον κ.Χάρ.Παρασκευά.

Για το Καίφτον να τηλεφωνήσουν στον κ. Γ.Τυρίκο στο 489 9303.

Για το Άσκοτβέλη να τηλεφωνήσουν στον κ.Δ.Στεφάνου στο 33 72931.

ΣΗΜΕΡΑ:ΚΑΙΦΤΟΝ - ΣΠΙΝΚΒΕΛΑ

Στα πλαίσια της προετοιμασίας τους το Καίφτον Χίλ και το Σάουθ Σπρινκβέλη θα δώσουν φιλικόν αγώνα σήμερα στο γήπεδο του πρώτου.

Οι αναπληρωματικές ομάδες θα παίξουν στις 5.15 μ.μ. και οι πακτικές θα συναντηθούν στις 6.30 μ.μ.

ΑΣΚΟΤΒΕΛΑ - ΟΛΥΜΠΙΚ

Το Δ.Σ. του Άσκοτβέλη είναι το εξής: Πρόεδρος: Δ.ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΥ,Αντιπρόεδρος:Αρ. Πατσόλος,Γραμματέας:Γ.Αθανασόπουλος, Β'Γραμματέας:Τ.Μιλιάνης,Ταμίας:Γ.Σπυριδούπουλος,Β'Ταμίας:Β.Μιλιάνης,Σεμβουλοί:Χρ.Παναγιώτ,Γ.Κορβίλης,Αρ.Μτρές,Κλ. Παπαδόπουλος,Γ.Πατέλας.

Γενικός άρχηγός των Τεχνιόπερς είναι ο Γιάννης Ρουμελιώτης.

Οι προπονήσεις του συλλόγου γίνονται κάθε Τρίτη και Πέμπτη στις 6.00 μ.μ. στο FAIRBURN PARK ASCOT - VALE.

ΚΑΙΦΤΟΝ ΧΙΛ - ΑΝΤΑΓΩΓΑΣ 8-1

Στα πλαίσια της προετοιμασίας τους το Καίφτον Χίλ και ο Άνταγώγας συναντήθηκαν σε φιλικόν αγώνα που έληξε με νίκη του πρώτου 8-1.

Οι παίκτες και των δύο ομάδων έπαιξαν μέσα σε αθλητική πλαίσια και έδειξαν καλά σημεία ως προς την αγωνιστικότητά τους.

Ο Άνταγώγας τον όποιο και ευχαριστεί το Δ.Σ του Καίφτον και ο προπονητής,πέτυχε το γκόλ με τον Μαρκόνο.

Το Καίφτον πού χρησιμοποίησε νέους παίκτες είχε για σκόρερ τους Στρατάκη 3, Παπαγεωργίου 2,Τυρίκο(πέναλτυ),Καρράλαμ και Θεοχαρίδη.

Άριστος έντυπώσεις άφησε ο Πήτερ Γκέλ

λης στη θέση του σέντερ μπάκ,ενώ ο Γιάννης Βυθούλας στη γραμμή του κέντρου διέπρεψε.

Η Β'ομάδα νίκησε την αντίστοιχη του Άνταγώγα με 5-2. Τα γκόλ για την ομάδα του Νικητή Τυρίκο σημείωσαν οι Τσαμπούκος 2,Ιωαννίδης 2 και Μουσιλίδης.

ΣΗΜΕΡΑ ΚΥΚΛΟΦΟΡΟΥΝ ΤΑ ΧΡΟΝΙΚΑ

Τα "Αθλητικά Χρονικά" κυκλοφορούν από σήμερα και οι φίλαθλοι μπορούν να τα βρουν σε όλα τα καταστήματα του πωλείται ή "Νέα Ελλάδα" και ο "Νέος Εόσμος".

Τα "Αθλητικά Χρονικά" με διευθυντή τον κ.Γεράσιμο Κατηφόρη,είναι μία αθλητική εφημερίδα πού τά λέει όλα έξω απ'τα όβνια.

Η ΠΡΟΤΑΞΗΤΡΙΑ ΓΙΟΥΒΕΝΤΟΥΣ ΣΤΟ ΚΑΙΦΤΟΝ

Σε λίγες μέρες ή πρωταθλήτρια Αυστραλίας Γιουβέντους θα παίζει κομπλέ στο Καίφτον Χίλ με αντίπαλο την τοπική Ελληνική ομάδα.

Θα άγανας αυτός προπονητής είναι έπιθυμία του καλύτερου τεχνικού της Αυστραλίας Αλεξ Μανέντρου ο όποιος έχει αναλάβει την Γκαλική ομάδα.

Επίσης θα γίνει και συνάντηση της ομάδας των νέων της Γιουβέντους (προπονητής έχει τον Τόυν Μπράουν)με την Β'ομάδα του Καίφτον Χίλ.

ΠΡΩΤΟΣ Ο ΜΙΧΑΕΛ ΓΑΥΤ

Ο διαιτητής ΜΙΧΑΕΛ ΓΑΥΤ κέρδισε τον τίτλο του καλύτερου ρεφερέ στο Ελληνικό κύπελλο 1985.

Εξόκον άνωμαυστικό το δόθηκε το περασμένο Σάββατο στον χορό του Ελληνικού Κυπέλλου από την επιτροπή.

ΤΡΑΥΜΑΤΙΣΤΕ ΒΟΥΤΙΝΙΔΑΣ - ΖΟΥΜΑΣ

Άτυχοι και πολύ μάλιστα στάθηκαν οι δύο Έλληνες διαιτητές Σαμ Ζούμας και Ντέννης Βουτίνιδης οι όποιοι τραυματίστηκαν και θα είναι μακριά από τα γήπεδα.

Συγκεκριμένα ο Σαμ Ζούμας πρόκειται σ'νοτομα να κάνει έγχείρηση μπιόλον,ενώ ο Ντέννης Βουτίνιδης κάνει θεραπεία στη μέση του.

Και στους δύο έκλεκτους Έλληνες διαιτητές ή στήλη εδχεται ταχεία ανάρρωση και σ'νοτομα να τους ξαναδώσει στους άγωνιστικούς χώρους.

Και στους δύο έκλεκτους Έλληνες διαιτητές ή στήλη εδχεται ταχεία ανάρρωση και σ'νοτομα να τους ξαναδώσει στους άγωνιστικούς χώρους.

Και στους δύο έκλεκτους Έλληνες διαιτητές ή στήλη εδχεται ταχεία ανάρρωση και σ'νοτομα να τους ξαναδώσει στους άγωνιστικούς χώρους.

Και στους δύο έκλεκτους Έλληνες διαιτητές ή στήλη εδχεται ταχεία ανάρρωση και σ'νοτομα να τους ξαναδώσει στους άγωνιστικούς χώρους.

CROATIA I MAKEDONJA FINALISTI NOG-NOG KUPA?

Prema prikazanoj igri u prva tri kola Melbourne Croatia i Preston Makedonija imaju najbolje izgleda da se sretnu u finalu Buffalo Nognog Kupa u subotu 8. marta. Na prošlim utakmicama pokazali su da su najbolje ekipe, iako su nastupili nekompletni.

Do suseda na Croatiaj, ako se ne dogodi nesto nepredvidljivo, Makedonija ce imati u svojim redovima Zorana Biloskog i Mick Novoskog.

I Croatia ce biti jaka, jer ce se vratiti Jozo Antolovic, koji otkida da mu se suproti porodi u Jugoslaviji. Najbolje od ova dva je odlicna igra Luke Bonacic, koji je sa Desankovicem najjasniji u toj je samopisnoj listi Jugovisne sputen na kolena prošle subote na Olympic Parku.

Preostale dve utakmice, protiv Morwell Falconsa u subotu 14. februara i protiv Suburbana u subotu 22. februara, posluze Croatiaj kao dobar trening za finalnu borbu u Nognom Kupu.

Makedonija se veceras sastaje Croydon Cityem, dok najduz utakmicu igra protiv Sunshine George Crossa u subotu 22. februara. Makedoniji su potrebna tri boda da bi osigurala ucesce u polifinalu.

Iako ce izgledati eventualno finale Nognog kupu pokazace najbolje prijateljski susret izmedju Croatiaj i Makedonije u nedelju 16. februara na novom igralistu Croatiaj u Sunshine, gde ce odigrati pet medjusobnih utakmica. Pre postavljeni juniori ispod 11, 12 i 13 godina, u 2 po podne postaju mladi timovi, a u 3.30 prvi timovi.

SEKULARAC TRAZI "TVRZADU"

Popularni Sekularac sedeo je na tribinama i posmatrao susret izmedju Makedonije i JUSTA, dok je brigu oko sastava tima prepustio Zdravku Lujlicu. Pre nego sto pocne sa ozbiljnim radom hteo je da se kao posmatrac upozna sa cim JUST raspolaze. Ipak, spustio se za vreme odmora u svlačionici i predložio rokadu, koja je pomogla "plavima" da preuzmu inicijativu, sto nije donelo promenu rezultata jer JUST nije imao dobre pucace.

YUGOSLOVENSKA SCENA

"Sa malim avionom ne moze se preleteti Atlantik", sumirao je Sekl JUST-ovu igru protiv Makedonije.

Objasnio je da "plavima" nedostaju par igraca u pozadini, koji mogu fizicki i tehnicki da gospodare sredinom terena. Sekularac je rekao "dva igraca" ali bio ni zadovoljan i sa jednim, ali pravim dirigentom igrom, koji niza da zaustavi loptu i pocne akciju koja ce uzvratiti protivnici gol. Takvog do sada nije primetio u JUST-ovim redovima, ali je ocito bio zadovoljan sto je stigao na vreme. Do pocetka novog prvenstva Sekularac ima skoro dva meseca na raspolaganju, dovoljno da pripremi jednu uvrstenu ekipu, koja ce sa uspehom konkurisati za prvih pet mesta u Juznoj divizionij Nacionalne lige.

Pravo je zadovoljstvo gledati kako radi sa igracima i kako je ozbiljno shvatio novu doznost. JUST je zaista pocasnost sto je dobio legendarnog Seklja za trenera. Tu zalavnost pokazuje i publika, koja sa oduševljenjem prati sve treninge. JUST-ova uprava bez rezerve je izta Seklja, spremna da udovolji svaki razuman zahtev. JUST se ne sme vise boriti za goli opstanak nego je opste uverenje svih clanova, koji se masovno vraćaju u staro jato.

Dve preostale utakmice u Nognom Kupu, protiv Bos Hilla u subotu 15. i protiv Croydon Citya u sredu 19. februara Sekularac ce iskoristiti da izvrši konacnu probu zamisljenog sastava, sa kojim ce JUST poceti dugu i naporan prvenstvenu trku. Navijaci sa nestrpljenjem cekuju prvi nastup talentovnog Vlade Stosica, koga je Sekularac okirio pre pet godina u Vranju i doveo u Zvezdu da nastavi tradiciju Rajka Mitica, Sekija, Dragana Drazilica i Pizona. Na Sekijevu molbu Zvezda ga je ustupila na kaljenje JUST-u, sto je Vlada sa ushilenjem prihvatilo.

Na prvom prozivci Juniora JUST-a pojavilo se preko

50 malisana sto je za pocetak velikog uspen. Stedeci skup je zakazan za sredu 12. februara u Footscray Parku iz Tehnickog Instituta. Pocetak u 5 po podne. Okuplje se duplo veci broj decaka, koje cekaju novi i stari treneri za timove od 9 do 16 godina starosti.

RICHOD DOCKERTY KUP

U subotu 15. februara igra se prvo kolo Dockerty Kupa, koji je poceo 1980. godine i smatra se najstarijim fudbalskim takmicenjem u Australiji. JUST ga je do sad tri puta osvajao, a prvi put daleke 1951. godine, sto je bila prava senzacija za ondasnje prilike.

Ove godine u prvom preliminarom kolu igraju Altona Gate Vardar i gostima protiv Port Melbournea na J.L. Murphy Reserve i Ringwood United SRIJA protiv Nunawading Citya na Quambee Reserve, Wonga Road, North Ringwood, My 36 A.7. Sa malo sportske srece Vardar i SRIJA treba da se probiju u drugo kolo, u koje se vec plasirao bez borbe Springvale United (Bratstvo/Jedinstvo).

"Plavi" iz Springvale meso mirovati do drugog kola Dockerty Kupa, jer su se prijavili za turnir Springvale Citya na Ross Reserve u Noble Parku. Igrace sest klubova podeljenih u dve grupe po bod sistemu. Sve utakmice se igraju cetvrtkom od 7 uvece (2 puta 35 minuta).

Prvu utakmicu Springvale United igra u cetvrtak 13. februara protiv South Oakleigh ili Moorabbin Citya u 8.30 uvece. Drugi susret "Plavi" igraju protiv Springvale Citya u cetvrtak 20. februara, iako je u 8.30 uvece.

Springvale United se dobro pripremio za ovaj turnir. Pripreme su pocele 18. januara, a trenira se dva puta nedeljno. Odigrana je samo jedna prijateljska utak-

mica po temperaturi od 36 stepeni, protiv Crvene zvezde na Como Parku, koja se završila nerešeno 0:0. "Plavi" su zadnjačeve igrace od prošle godine, osim Borisa Marovica koji se jos nije pojavio ove godine. Verovatno, trazi novi klub, ali je jos uvek registrovan igrac Springvale United.

PRIJATELJSKE UTAKMICE

CLARINDA - Richmond Utd/BOSNA 4:3 (3:1). Utakmica je odigrana na temperaturi od 37 stepeni u hladu po teskom i dzombastom terenu. "Bosna" je igrala vrlo dobro protiv kluba koji je po rangu stariji tri divizionije.

Golove su postigli: Branko Gavran, Dragoslav Jelicic i Dragan Janjic.

Bosna je igrala u sledecem sastavu: Petar, Haris Basic, Toni Ortkica, Sudo Cavkic, Branko Gavran, Hija Kereticov, Dragan, Dragoslav Jelicic, Mustafa Jusic, Dragan Janjic, Zoran Djukic, Iz Springvale Uniteda su pozajmljeni za ovaj susret Dragoslav Jelicic, Dragan Janjic, Hija Kereticov i Zoran Djukic.

Trener Bosne Bata Mitic zadovoljan je igrom svoj tima, ali ne moze da shvati igrace koji nisu dosli da odigraju prvu prijateljsku utakmicu lako su pozvani. O tome ce biti vise reči na prvom treningu, koji se odrzava veceras na Burnley Ovalu.

U predigri je rezervna Clarinde pobedila Bosnu sa 5:2 (3:0). Streici za Bosnu: Zlatko Basic i Sudo Cavkic.

WANTIRNA - ENDEAVOUR HILLS 4:1 (1:1). Streici za Wantirna: Steve Balog 2, Steve henku i Mick Woods po 1. I ova utakmica je odigrana po nesvoj vrucini i na tvrdom terenu.

Iako je Wantirna dobila obe prijateljske utakmice ove godine, trener Joe Hogedus nije zadovoljan sa formom svojih igraca, pa je za utokaz 11. februara zakazao susret sa Malvern Cityem na imanju Madjarskog centra u Wantirni.

PARKMORE/PLAVI DUNAV - CHELSEA/HAI-DUK 3:3 (2:1). Bila je ova prava proba za obe ekipe. Igra nije bila los, iako je bilo suviše vruće a teren neravan i tvrd.

"Plavi Dunav" je imao vise od igre u prvom poluvremenu, dok gostima pripada završnica. Trener Joe Biro smatra da su igraci "Plavog Dunava" vec sada u dobroj formi i kondiciji.

Schoolboys Cup

Former South Melbourne player Armstrong (pictured) again is organising the Victorian Secondary Schoolboys Shield and applications now can be lodged from interested schools. Armstrong started the competition in 1982 and 16 schools took part. There were 51 schools participating in last year's competition. The closing date for applications is March 14 and applications should be sent to: Jim Armstrong, 34 Hodda Street, Essendon 3040. Further inquiries can be made by phoning 370 8197.

Juventus-Pioneer coach Peter Brine dropped a bombshell by resigning only weeks after being appointed by the club.

Brine had only conducted a couple of pre-season training sessions when he telephoned Juventus president Ernie Schiro, to inform him that he was quitting because he was moving to Queensland to work.

Schiro received the call at 4pm but by 5pm he already had appointed former Metro Claremont and state under-16 coach, David Smith, as Brine's replacement.

Smith is a top-class player with interstate experience but has yet to prove himself as a coach at the top level.

Taking over the state champion as it strives for its fourth consecutive title will provide him with his biggest challenge to date.

Schiro remained unperturbed by the events and insisted that they did not mean the demise of Juventus.

Tasmanian scene with WALTER PLESS

"Coaches and players never worry me," Schiro said. "They come and go but the club and I will stay. We're born black and white."

"One comes and one goes and that's the way coaches are. As far as I'm concerned it's just one of those things."

"It will be a challenge for David. I think we'll be all right and I'm thinking of getting a

couple of good players, either from the mainland or from here."

"Coaching Juventus won't be like coaching Metro. I think he'll be shaking all over but I asked him if he was confident and he said that he was, or he wouldn't have taken it on. I then told him he would have all the support I could give him."

The major problem facing

Juventus now that the coaching issue has been resolved is in the goalkeeping department.

State custodian Steve Craven is leaving for Queensland and the club doesn't have an adequate replacement.

Rapid's Phil Kannegiesser had been rumoured to be joining Juventus but it now seems as if he will stay put.

Tasmania's three representatives in the Australian schoolboys side, which did so well on its United Kingdom

tour recently, returned home last week.

Coach of the side, Duncan Summers, was thrilled with the tour and said that Australians tended to under-sell the ability of their youngsters.

White Eagles coach, Steve Darby, saw the team play several times in England and he particularly was impressed with goalkeeper Peter GBoenwood.

Darby has signed the youngster from Caledonians so his action already has been vindicated.

Juventus coach quits



BUFFALO SPORTS



PROUD TO SPONSOR

THE 1986 BUFFALO GOLD CUP



PAUL LEWIS

WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY (tonight)

GREEN GULLY v WESTERN SUBURBS

at 7.15pm

PRESTON v CROYDON CITY

at 8.40pm



JIM TANSEY

FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY

MELBOURNE CROATIA v MORWELL FALCONS

at 7.15pm

HEIDELBERG UNITED v SUNSHINE GEORGE

CROSS

at 8.40pm



JIM
CAMPBELL



CHRIS
TAYLOR

SATURDAY 15th FEBRUARY

FOOTSCRAY v BOX HILL

at 7.15pm

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS v STH MELBOURNE

at 8.40pm



VLATKO
BELIC



JOHN DOWIE

ALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED AT

OLYMPIC PARK No.1 GROUND

ADMISSION

ADULTS — \$6.00

AGED AND INVALID PENSIONERS — \$2.00

CHILDREN 12 years to 16 years — \$1.00

CHILDREN Under 12 — FREE!!